THE TIMES

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Only one rail line 'worth electrifying'

Only one of Britain's main railway lines, the east coast line from King's Cross, London, to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is worth electrifying, according to stringent conditions set by the Government in June. British Rail is under pressure to secure more efficient operation and productivity gains to help to make more routes profitable enough for electrification Page 3

TUC call for job creation

The creation of 900,000 new jobs every year from now until 1986 and an annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below the one million level, The Trades Union Congress is expected to say in its economic review in January Page 2

Libyans try to disprove Reagan

Libya is mounting a campaign to disprove President Reagan's allegations that Americans living and working there are in danger of their lives. American oilmen on lucrative contracts there are expressing anger at the decision to call them home Page 4

Sakharovs weak and emaciated

Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife were weak and emaciated after their 17-day hunger strike, according to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, for whom they staged the protest and who visited them in hospital at the weekend. They had been threatened with force-feeding and each had repeatedly been told that the other was dying Page 6

London Labour to end rates levy

The Labour Party's Greater London Regional Council adopted a policy of creating financial anarchy to oppose the Government's Local Finance Bill. It decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates in 1982. Page 3

Slogan bottled

The familiar "drinka pinta milka day" slogan is to disappear from the nation's advertising media under a new [illegible] by the National Me[illegible]ouncil, which will fea[illegible] slogan, "Milk's gotta [illegible]ttle".

[illegible]alist concern

[illegible]rganizer of a two-week [illegible] to America by "loyalist" [illegible]icians in Ulster, including the Rev Ian Paisley, criticized British Embassy staff in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support". Page 3

Cash crisis

The local government workers' 7 per cent pay settlement has highlighted unrealistic inflation forecasts and threatens to spark a public spending crisis over the Government's attempts to switch its medium-term expenditure plans Page 13

EEC meeting

EEC foreign ministers meet in London today for intensive but informal talks seeking agreement on vital reforms in the Community's agriculture policy and budget contribution scales Page 6

Alfa cutback

Alfa Romeo has "its back to the wall" and plans to be idle for four months next year, thus cutting its output from a capacity of 280,000 cars to 180,000 Page 13

Test set for draw

Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian captain, scored 163 not out in the second Test against England in Bangalore. With one day's play remaining the match is destined to end in a draw Page 17

Skiing success

Konrad Bartelski, of Britain, the son of a naturalized Pole, finished second to Erwin Resch, of Austria, in a World Cup downhill [illegible]ing race at Val Gardena, Italy, beaten by only 11/100ths of a second Page 18

Leader page, 9

Letters: On constituency boundaries, from Mr G. P. Barnes, and Mr Tom Ellis, MP; Communion with Rome, from the Bishop of Birmingham; playing in snow, from the Secretary of the Rugby Football Unions

Leading articles: Poland; SDP and Mr Douglas-Mann.

Features, pages 6, 8

Phillip Hodson points out the message for Mrs Thatcher in the lonely hearts columns; Des Wilson on the thoughtlessness of once-a-year charity; Anthony Burgess on the perils of being colour blind.

Obituary, page 10

Mr Laurence King, Mr John Mansbridge

Home News	2, 3	Prem Ends	22
Overseas	4-6	Property	19
Appts	10, 14	Religion	10
Arts	7	Sale Room	10
Business	12-16	Science	2
Court	10	Sport	16-18
Crossword	22	TV & Radio	21
Diary	8	Theatres, etc	21
Lurie cartoon	4	25 Years Ago	10
Obituary	10	Weather	22
Parliament	10	Wills	10

Thousand arrests ordered, Army on streets

Poland shuts door on democracy with martial law

From Roger Boyes in [illegible] and Our Foreign Staff in London

The Polish leadership has put an end to the country's experiment with democracy by imposing martial law and detaining members of Solidarity, the independent trade union.

A Government proclamation banned a wide range of civil liberties, including trade union activities, foreign travel, and public assemblies with the exception of religious services. A 10 pm to 6 am curfew was introduced and everyone over the age of 12 was ordered to carry an identification card at all times.

Polish soldiers, who were told to use force if necessary to restore calm, patrolled the streets of Warsaw in battle gear. Some carried rifles with fixed bayonets. Telephone and Telex lines as well as air services with the outside world were cut all day, creating widespread confusion about the fate of Solidarity and other non-government leaders.

The moves, which were announced before dawn by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister, came after a week of *bitter invective between Solidarity* and the Government, with the party leadership accusing the union of destroying any hope of coalition rule.

General Jaruzelski said that he had taken the measures because "the country was on the edge of the abyss". In a speech broadcast repeatedly *on radio and television* throughout the day, he explained that he had acted with a heavy heart to prevent the total collapse of the Polish state which, he claimed, had been "not days, but hours away". He added: "We are not aiming for a military coup d'état nor a military dictatorship".

A military Council of Salvation, which was set up by the general to run the country from midnight last night, ordered the arrest of up to 1,000 people, including leaders of Solidarity and former Government officials. But Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement, was reported to be still free and consulting Government officials about moves to avert a threatened general strike.

Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic Primate of Poland, condemned the state of siege but also made an appeal for reason.

"The Church learned with *grief of the interruption in the* dialogue (between labour and Polish authorities)", the Archbishop said in a sermon at the Jesuit Church in the old section of Warsaw.

The official news agency, PAP, said that the Military Council was made up of 14 generals, one admiral and five colonels. A Government spokesman said that the authorities intended to carry out planned reforms of the economy in what he described as Poland's "second revolution".

"The state of war will provide better conditions for the economic reform by blocking chaos, unrest and the political oppositionists who said 'no' to everything," he added.

ER PAGES

Wh[illegible] arge	4
Lif[illegible] oland	4
The economy	4
Schmidt reaction	5
Will Russia keep out?	8
Leading article	9

The Military Committee for National Salvation, an*nounced during the night on* proclamation of the state of siege, comprises 15 generals and five colonels.

Under General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who is Prime Minister, Defence Minister and party leader, the council contains four deputy defence ministers.

The members are: General Florian Siwicki, alternative member of the party Politburo and Deputy Defence Minister; General Tadeusz Tuczapski, Deputy Defence Minister; General Eugeniusz Molczyk, Deputy Defence Minister; Admiral Ludwik Janczyszyn, Navy Commander-in-Chief; General Czesław Kiszczak, Interior Minister; General Tadeusz Hupalowski, Regional Administration Minister; General Czesław Piotrowski, Mines Minister. General Jozef Baryla, Deputy Defence Minister; General Wlodzimierz Oliwa, General Henryk Rapacewicz, General Jozef Uzycki, General Tadeusz Krepski, General Longin Lozowicki, General Michal Janiszewski, head of the Prime Minister's Office; General Jerzy Jarosz, Colonel Tadeusz Makarewicz, Colonel Kazimierz Garbacik, Lieutenant-Colonel Jerzy Wlosinski, Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslaw Hermaszewski. —*AFP.*

Another spokesman said that the independent trade unions had not been dissolved but merely suspended.

In Warsaw, members of the Army could be seen throughout the city directing traffic, sealing off Government offices from potential protestors and even in some instances in plain clothes driving trams and buses. Armoured cars and eight-wheel personnel carriers were patrolling the streets and tanks were reported on the road between Gdansk and Warsaw.

Initially, there were no signs of popular protest, only sullen bafflement and surprise. Later, however, police used water cannon to disperse angry crowds outside the headquarters of the Solidarity movement in Warsaw and trade union activists distributed leaflets calling for an immediate general strike.

Tomorrow, the start of the working week, will clearly be a much more stringent test of the Army's ability to handle the situation. A government spokesman, who spoke to foreign reporters in Warsaw, declined to spell out exacty how the authorities would react to a general strike, except to say that they had no intention of replacing workers with soldiers.

One clear indication that the Army was now very much in charge of the day-to-day running of Polish affairs came when television broadcasters appeared on the small screen wearing military uniforms. Only official communiqués were being read by the news readers who apparently had been drafted into the armed forces at their place of work.

Among the many restrictions imposed on Poles and foreigners alike was the need to obtain special permission to visit border areas. Diplomats were banned from travelling outside Warsaw and the Ministry of the Interior gave a warning that all foreigners might be interned if the situation warranted such extreme action.

Privately-owned radio transmitters, firearms and explosives were ordered to be handed over to the authorities, there was an indefinite ban on petrol sales, drivers were asked not to form queues at petrol stations and all domestic and international flights by the national airline, LOT, were being cancelled again tomorrow.

Warsaw radio also announced new regulations empowering the authorities to censor mail, Telex and telephone communications. Prohibitions were introduced on the photographing of specified buildings and the wearing of unspecified uniforms.

*Force was authorized to re*store order and a communiqué by the National Defence Committee said that the death sentence could be imposed on those who refused to serve in the civil defence and military services. The communiqué said that a number of organizations had been what it described as "militarized".

They included the railways, ports, motor transport, the post office, telegraphs and telephones, radio and television stations, fire brigades and some power plants.

PAP, the official news agency, announced the cancellation of a session of the Polish *Parliament originally due to* take place later this week. The authorities also brought forward Christmas holidays for students and schoolchildren to this week.

Across the Baltic in Stockholm, Mr Jakub Swiecicki, the official representative of Solidarity in Sweden, told *The Times that a general strike* would be launched immediately in Poland to counter the Government. "Solidarity has long been prepared for such a move," he said.

☐ Banned organizations: The list of organizations banned under the emergency regulations was read out on Polish *television (AFP reports from* Warsaw).

Besides the independent trade union federation Solidarity, they are: The farmers union Rural Solidarity, the branch (ex-official) trade unions and the autonomous trade unions. The ban applies as well to all student organiza*tions, plus the Association of* Polish Journalists.

Face of Poland: Members of a Polish swimming team who have been competing on the European Cup short course in Barnet, Hertfordshire, heard the news at their Watford hotel. They will fly home tomorrow as planned.

Blizzards make Britain 'giant disaster area'

By a Staff Reporter

Much of Britain was turned into a "giant disaster area" by a new wave of blizzards sweeping in from the west *yesterday. Many* main roads and hundreds of minor ones were impassable because of snow drifts or fallen trees, railways lines were blocked, thousands of homes were without electricity, others were flooded and two people were drowned at sea.

The snow came just as the weathermen had predicted. Devon and Cornwall were the first to suffer, as force eight gales caused severe drifting. The Royal Automobile Club described conditions as "nightmarish". Their spokesman said: "Countless roads are blocked, there have been hundreds of accidents and numerous stranded motorists.

"*It's a giant disaster area.* With all the elements combined conditions are as bad as can be imagined.

Three hundred drivers were reported trapped in 6ft drifts on a blocked road in Shropshire last night. Police using tractors and mechanical diggers mounted a big rescue operation to haul cars out of a half-mile stretch on the A5 between Shrewsbury and Telford.

"We don't think that any drivers will have to spend the night in their vehicles, but many of them will have to spend the night in either Shrewsbury or Telford, because the road is completely blocked," police said.

Gritting lorries were fighting a losing battle with snow covering the grit soon after it had been laid and drivers and rail travellers face long delays and a hazardous journey to work today.

Many roads in North and South Wales, the West Country, Southern England and the Midlands were blocked. The M5 was the only route open into Devon. Several motorways including the M1, M5, M6 and M11 had only one lane open and the A38 trunk road was closed near Exeter. In the Lake District and Kirkstone Pass between Windermere and Ullswater was closed and traffic was at a virtual standstill to the north of the Lakes.

In many cities and towns bus services were either stopped entirely or severely curtailed, including London, Birmingham and Oxford.

At Okehampton, on the edge of Dartmoor, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service set up rest centres in church halls for stranded travellers. Devon County Council opened its emergency control centre in Exeter but it could only report an increasing number of roads blocked and towns and villages cut off.

Getting warmer

Warmer air was following behind the blizzard last night, the London Weather Centre said, and in southern parts of England and Wales some thawing will occur. The forecast was that all other regions will have bright intervals with showers or outbreaks of snow. Nowhere will be as cold as it has been.

In Hampshire all major roads were blocked and the M4 impassable at junction 13, near Reading.

North Wales suffered the worst conditions for 18 years. Every major road and mountain pass was blocked by drifting snow. In South Wales conditions were only slightly better and in Swansea the police recalled their mobile patrols for a while.

In Wiltshire Army personnel who serve in the arctic warfare unit helped local rescue services. One snowmobile, normally used in north Norway, took two people from a remote village who were suffering from hypothermia into hospital at Salisbury.

In Somerset all county council schools and colleges will be closed today. Last night snow ploughs and gritting lorries were ordered back to their depots in case they became stuck.

In Staffordshire Leek was cut off as roads to Buxton, Macclesfield and Ashbourne were all impassable.

In East Anglia roads were blocked by trees and fallen power lines. Sudbury was cut off and police in Norfolk withdrew their patrol vehicles after two became stuck in drifts. Some drifts were 5ft high.

In the Midlands Birmingham airport, which collected 10 in of snow in five hours, was closed. Power cuts blacked out parts of several towns including Worcester, Malvern, Telford and Stratford upon Avon.

In London services on several bus routes were withdrawn because of treacherous road conditions. Areas affected included Southall, Ealing, Hounslow, Shepherd's Bush and Heathrow airport.

Electricity supplies were cut off over a wide area, as power lines iced up and were blown together by the gales, causing short circuits. By late afternoon the [illegible] of Devon and Cornwall [illegible] Somerset west of Bridgwater [illegible] without power. The wind and snow made it almost impossible for engineers to carry out repairs and power was not expected to be restored until today in some areas.

The electricity failures spread to other areas, including Northern Ireland, South Wales, Slough and Oxford, and hospitals had to use emergency generators.

The railway line between Exeter and Salisbury was blocked and a train was halted for four hours near Chard in Somerset. The train, the 12.25 from Exeter to Waterloo, had about 100 passengers on board. It was eventually towed backwards to Exeter.

Blackouts in the Swindon area affected the signalling system and British Rail was

Continued on back page, col 7

Exclusive

Test-tube twins due on the NHS

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Test-tube twins, conceived on the National Health Service, are due to be born in early June at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London.

If all goes well, they could be the first test-tube twins in Britain, and will be the first test-tube babies to be conceived on the NHS since the early work of Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe.

A woman, aged 31, from Stockport has been carrying the non-identical twins for 14 weeks after treatment by a team led by Professor Ian Craft, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the hospital.

If all goes well, they will make the Royal Free team only the second in Britain, and fourth or fifth in the world, to achieve a successful birth. The first test-tube twins, a boy and a girl, were born in Australia last June.

The success of the Royal Free team, who have worked independently of Steptoe and Edwards but have cooperated with one of the Australian groups, raises hopes that the test-tube baby technique may in time become a relatively routine procedure

Professor Ian Craft said yesterday: "We are *absolutely* delighted. We are confident that success must come again."

Since August, two other patients have become pregnant but have miscarried at about 6 weeks. The woman who is expecting twins, however, has passed the period when the risk of miscarriage is greatest.

Professor Craft said: "We are confident that we are ironing out the problems and we are no longer despondent. This offers real hope that the technique will in time become much more commonplace."

The sex of the twins may not be known until the birth. Professor Craft, who hopes to pass details to other NHS groups next year, said the risk to the foetuses of an amniocentesis outweighed the risk of abnormality.

Two London hospitals, St Thomas's and King's College, have worked on the technique, and work continues at a third, Hammersmith Hospital.

So far 11 test-tube babies *have been born in Britain, and* 12 in Australia. A few pregnancies have been established in the United States, and Edwardes and Steptoe, have more than 60 pregnancies established. Teams in France, Sweden and West Germany are also working on the technique.

Since Edwardes and Steptoe's first three successes in 1978 and 1979 at Oldham General Hospital, the only successful test-tube baby treatment has been at a private clinic they set up near Cambridge when Mr Steptoe retired from the NHS.

It charges either £1,600 or £2,100 for a course of treatment, depending whether certain preliminary investigations are needed.

Change in technique, page 2

Scargill rallies opposition to Government

The decision by miners to call for a strike ballot marked the start of a campaign of mass *opposition to the Conservative* Government, Mr Arthur Scargill said yesterday.

He told a centenary celebration of the birth of Willie Gallacher, Scotland's first Communist MP: "I can think of no more appropriate way to celebrate the centenary than that each and every one of us will take part in that campaign of mass opposition."

Labour Party members had an obligation to take to the streets in the peace movement, and to protest on the jobs march movement. Mr Scargill, who was speaking at Loch Gelly Fife, was making his first public speech since winning the election for president of the miners' union.

He said 1981 could provide the turning point in British politics. Mr Scargill also criticized the decision of the Labour Party's national executive organizing committee, to oppose the candidacy of Peter Tatchell in Bermondsey.

"I hope the national executive committee when it next meets will overturn this decision," he said.

"It was the first step towards a witch-hunt in the Labour Party. Everyone in the Labour Party had to be on their guard. If there is a danger, it is from those who don't believe in a socialist alternative, and remain in the party."

Referring to the miners' claim for a *minimum £100 a* week, Mr Scargill said miners' wages had been eroded over the past three to four years. "We are calling upon our membership in the next four weeks to support the policies which I believe they have already supported in the presidential election.

"We are asking for support because we know the only thing the (National Coal) Board and Conservative Government understand is the unity and determination of the working classes".

NCB worries, page 2

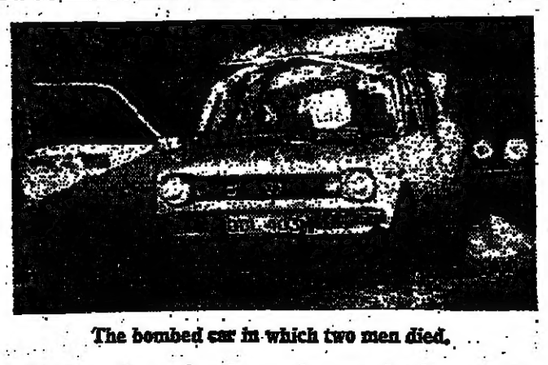
Two Iranians killed in London car bomb blast

By Robin Young

Two Iranians were killed and a third seriously injured when a bomb exploded in their car in Connaught Square, near Marble Arch in the West End of London yesterday afternoon.

The three men were in a car which was preparing to pull away from the kerb when the explosion happened. The two passengers, in the rear seats, died almost immediately. The driver was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he underwent an operation for severe injuries. His condition was said to be very serious.

Scotland Yard sources said last night that the men were believed to be supporters of the Khomeini regime who were transporting the bomb to a target. Anti-terrorist squad detectives and Special Branch officers were trying to discover the intended destination of the device, which was thought to contain between three and four ounces of explosive.



The bombed car in which two men died.

Residents who rushed from their select Regency homes when they heard the blast said it looked as though something the passengers were carrying in their laps had exploded.

Mr Ronald Prince, a dentist, who ran to the car, a white Datsun Cherry, after the explosion, said: "A neighbour of mine was already giving first aid and comfort to the man in the front seat. His feet were hanging out of the window. His eyes were flickering and he appeared to be in a state of deep shock. There were two bodies on the back seat. It looked as though something on their laps had exploded."

The explosion happened at about 2.20 pm. The car was parked on the west of the square, only a few hundred yards from Speakers' Corner, where police are occupied every Sunday afternoon keeping rival factions of Iranian demonstrators apart.

Some residents said that the car appeared to have been parked for some time, as it was surrounded by snow. Mrs Marcelle Thomson said: "Over the past five days the car has been parked in the same spot. I think the people who were in it may live here."

Sir Arthur Hetherington, former chairman of the British Gas Corporation, was in his sitting room just yards from the blast when the bomb went off. "I heard a loud bang and went to the window. I could see this smallish white car that had been wrecked at the side of the road", Sir Arthur said.

"The man who was carried away was dark and swarthy looking. I think he had a beard—he may have been an Arab. I don't think he was a local as I don't remember seeing him before".

☐ The owner of the car said last night he had unwittingly lent it to a friend a few hours before the explosion (the Press Association reports). Mr Mohsen Ghafouri, of Woodland Avenue, Luton, said that his friend, an Iranian, called for the car yesterday morning "to do a job."

Mr Ghafouri said: "I didn't know what he meant and he didn't explain. But I don't think he would get mixed up in any kind of terrorist activity."

Mr Ghafouri said his friend had asked for the car on Saturday night when they were at a friend's house in Kilburn High Road, north-west London. "He said he would bring the car back this afternoon

London, the arena for terrorists, page 2

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Dispute over mobile health team

Epsom District Hospital has been unable to provide a mobile medical team from its large casualty unit to attend the scenes of accidents because of a dispute over who should pay the sum of £36.50.

Junior doctors at the Surrey hospital refused to turn out as volunteers unless they were covered by insurance against injury. The Department of Health and the district area health authorities said they could not provide funds for the policy.

After renewed requests from the ambulance service and the community health council for a "flying squad" from Epsom hospital, consultants there decided to raise the £36.50 annual group insurance premium themselves.

They were still £2 short of the sum needed when the latest emergency highlighted the need for a mobile medical team: a fatal accident at Leatherhead, five miles from Epsom hospital, which, because of the dispute, had to be attended by a team from Kingston hospital, 12 miles from the accident.

Armed robbers tie up family and take £1,500

An Oxfordshire publican and his family, who were awoken at gunpoint, tied up and robbed early yesterday, are believed to be the latest victims of two masked men in boiler suits who have carried out about ten similar raids in the past six or seven months in southern England.

In the attack at the isolated Fox and Hounds public house at Littleworth, near Faringdon, Mr Geoffrey Billinge, the licensee, collapsed unconscious *in front of the men*. Mrs Audrey Billinge and the couple's two sons, aged 21 and 19, were bound hand and foot.

The robbers, whose faces were covered with balaclava helmets, drove away in Mr Billinge's car with £1,500 in cash and a video recorder. Mr Billinge, who has high blood pressure, was later seen by a doctor.

Housing Act 'is unfair to wives'

The Housing Act passed last year is leaving battered wives without a roof over their heads, the National Consumer Council claims in an introduction to a selection of model tenancy agreements published today (Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Act represents a considerable step backwards in cases where marriages break down, the council says. Landlords can no longer transfer tenancies to wives, though in most cases it is the wife who will have custody of the children.

New Tenancy Agreements, (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1, £1).

Animal research centre break-in

Members of the Northern Animal Liberation League said last night they had broken into an agricultural research centre in Cheshire and discovered more than 2,500 chickens with their beaks removed crammed into tiny cages seven at a time. Pigs were chained by the neck in narrow pens, and one was dead and decomposing, the league said.

A Granada Television camera crew had filmed the campaigners from the roadside.

But management of the John Bibby Nutrition Research and Advisory Centre, near Neston, denied that any livestock were subject to cruelty. "We have nothing to hide here and this break-in has done no good at all to the animals", Mr Max Little, the farm manager, said.

Boy of 15 is Rubik Cube champion

Julian Chilvers, aged 15, of Norwich, broke the world record for solving the Rubik Cube at the British championship at the Savoy Hotel, London, on Saturday. His time was 25.79 seconds, a fraction of a second better than the previous record, held by a French boy.

Train crash man dies

Mr Harold Gelder, aged 66, of Whitkirk Close, Leeds, died yesterday in York District Hospital. He was the most seriously hurt of 24 casualties when the 13.50 York-Liverpool train jumped the track and crashed at Ulleskelf, near York, last Tuesday.

Ripper inquiry ends

West Yorkshire Police Committee have been called to a meeting tomorrow to hear the findings of an internal inquiry into the investigation by West Yorkshire police of the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

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TUC to call for more jobs and faster growth

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is expected to argue in the new year that the creation of 900,000 jobs a year between now and 1986 and an unprecedented annual growth rate of 4 per cent are needed to bring unemployment below one million.

Those suggestions, and an immediate reflationary package worth well over the £6,200m union leaders were seeking at this time last year, are expected to form central demands of the TUC economic review due for publication in January.

The review, which is likely to be the most ambitious published by the TUC, will estimate that what it regards as the total job shortage will be at least 5,300,000 by 1986 unless present policies are checked.

That figure is intended to include those on special employment measures, the unregistered unemployed and a number of full-time jobs equivalent to those on short-time working. TUC economists contend that the present job shortage is more than four million.

Arguing that about *4,500,000* jobs will have to be created in the next five years if unemployment is to be brought down to acceptable levels, the review will develop TUC demands for a central planning agency modelled on those in France and Japan.

At the same time a draft broadly approved by last week's meeting of the TUC economic committee implies that the main growth in jobs may well need to come in service industries, including public services, rather than in manufacturing.

Although the TUC will use the economic review as the main plank of a propaganda campaign against the Government's policies, its strongest impact may well be on Labour Party policy. A number of senior union leaders see the TUC as filling a policy vacuum which they believe has been opened up by Labour's internecine warfare.

A confidential draft of the review admits that the employment targets it sets are highly ambitious and that the rate of growth envisaged has not been achieved in any sustained way since the war.

It argues that the proposals for a budget stimulus, which TUC economists will prepare for next month's meeting of the economic committee, will have to be "supplemented by further policies to encourage output growth and remove constraints".

The draft says that in service industries based on telecommunications and computing, the impact of new technology on jobs can be offset if TUC policies for economic growth and job security through collective agreements can be maintained.

But it predicts that the main area for employment expansion in the future will lie in the public services and argues that "there are huge unfulfilled needs in society which demand an increase in the public services", including education, health and community services.

TUC economists have yet to release to the economic committee their analysis of how big a reflationary package would be required in the first year of the medium-term strategy. The TUC's figure last year of £6,200m, which it has followed with a demand for £24,000m to be spent on capital projects over the next five years, has gained a wider currency than it expected among critics of the Government, including some leading Tory "wets".

The demand is likely to be increased before publication of the economic review

Miners 'special case' remark worries NCB

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Coal Board executives are embarrassed by the apparent disarray the Cabinet oper how to handle the threatened miners' pay strike.

Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, has been given a transcript of a television remark by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, in which he suggested that the miners could be made a "special case" yet again because of increased productivity.

The coal board has told the National Union of Mineworkers that a projected £40m saving due to improved output next year has already been accounted for in the £102.5m wage offer tabled last week but rejected by coal field union leaders.

A senior NCB source said last night: "Our latest offer assumes the benefit of a further increase in productivity next year. The money is already on the table." His comment appears to rule out the productivity pay loophole suggested by Mr Pym on the BBC programme, *Question Time*, last Thursday, as a way of averting a damaging confrontation between the miners and the Government.

There is now a very real fear among some miners that next month's pithead ballot will produce the 55 per cent majority required for the NUM to mount a national strike, although the union has said it will give at least a week's notice before stopping the pits.

However, until the vote is actually taken, the departments of employment and energy are playing down the prospect that the miners could drive up their present "final" offer of 9.3 per cent to 10 per cent and beyond.

Mr Pym's remarks, it is emphasized, were not to be taken as a shift in Cabinet policy, which remains solidly behind implementing the public sector ceiling of 4 per cent wage rises in the 1981-82 pay round.

However, it is privately conceded that if the miners do vote for militancy within a month of electing Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing Yorkshire leader, as their new president, there will have to be further negotiations if a potentially disastrous stoppage is to be avoided.

The miners are preparing the ground for a special delegate conference in London on Friday, when they will be asked by their executive to recommend an all-out strike to the men in a ballot on January 14-15. Area councils in the more militant coalfields are expected to mandate their representatives to vote for industrial action.

Meanwhile, the coal board says its last "final" offer will stretch the industry's resources by £10.5m more than it can afford. Once the pay round in the industry is completed, wage and salary costs would rise by £170.5m, swallowing up two thirds of the price rise that took effect last month.

The current severe weather is also causing concern in the industry. If it continues coal stocks in power stations will be run down more rapidly.

Water workers may reject pay offer after union vote

By Our Labour Correspondent

Hopes that the 32,000 water and sewerage workers will vote to accept a 9.1 per cent pay offer have been unexpectedly shaken by a decision by leaders of the second biggest union in the industry.

The national water committee of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which has about 10,000 members in the industry, has voted not to endorse a unanimous recommendation by the negotiators for acceptance of the offer in day-long talks last Tuesday.

The decision, taken at the weekend and repeated by the union's executive, could throw into question whether the negotiators can command a majority for a package which they have said is the most they can secure without resorting to industrial action.

The union's national committee for local government manual workers, nearly half of whom are in Nupe, also refused to endorse their pay offer of between 6.3 and 7.8 per cent, but that decision was thought unlikely to prevent the offer being accepted, and was in line with a joint union decision by negotiators on Thursday.

The water committee's decision, which was said to have been influenced by the continued deadlock over miners' pay, the Chancellor's latest budget changes, and the higher than expected offer to local authority manual workers, has more significance, since union leaders had in any case been predicting a tight vote.

The National Water Council, nevertheless, remains hopeful that branch meetings in all four of the industry's unions, due to be completed by the end of the first week in January, will endorse the offer, which would add between £6.50 and £7.15 a week to a worker's pay.

Mr Edmund Newall, chief negotiator for the four unions and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which represents nearly two-thirds of the water workers, said last night that he had told his members the offer was the best they could get by negotiation.

The offer will be put to GMWU branch meetings with the negotiators' recommendation. The union does not use any equivalent process to Nupe's reference of a national pay offer to an industrial committee and then to the executive.

It was clear last night that Nupe's executive had failed to ratify the manual workers' offer, largely in order not to be seen as approving a pay deal well below the inflation rate at a time when the union is promoting common claims of about 12 to 13 per cent.

A statement said yesterday that the unions had "smashed the Government's 4 per cent limit, and in that we have achieved our objective". It was leaving to the members whether to accept that or go for the full claim.

Keith Waldegrave

Professor Ian Craft at work in the Royal Free Hospital

The test-tube twins breakthrough

By Nicholas Timmins and Annabel Ferriman

Professor Ian Craft first started work on the test-tube baby technique in 1977, some nine years after Steptoe and Edwards began their work at Oldham General Hospital.

Up to July, 1980, he says, eggs had been removed from about eighty women. While a number were fertilized, only 15 embryos were transferred to the mothers. In mid-1979 one pregnancy was achieved but the mother miscarried at six to seven weeks.

Professor Craft said yesterday, however, that a number *of changes in technique earlier* this year had led to the present success. Two drugs are used to simplify and control the collection of ova so that their release is predictable and they can be collected during normal operating lists.

First the woman's monthly cycle is carefully monitored, using ultra-sound to detect the growth of the follicles in the ovary from which the egg is released.

When the decision to proceed has been made, a fertility drug, clomiphene, is given to stimulate the follicle growth. That is followed by another drug, gonadotrophin, to trigger the release of the ovum. Thirty-six hours after the gonadotrophin is given, the egg is removed.

Originally the team fertilized the ovum immediately. But consultation with one of the groups working in Melbourne, Australia, who have produced live births, has led Professor Craft's group at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north London, to leave the eggs in a culture medium for between four and six hours to allow them to ripen further before fertilization.

That appears to make it easier for the sperm to penetrate and fertilize the egg, and also produces embryos more likely to start dividing and developing normally.

The use of the drugs also increases the number of ova released. Instead of the one egg usually produced in a normal cycle an average of two and sometimes up to five can be obtained.

That is done by laparoscopy, the technique in which a small *puncture is made in the abdomen*, allowing a telescope and aspirating needle to be introduced to suck the eggs from the follicles on the surface of the ovary.

Once the ova have successfully fertilized and appear normal, up to two and sometimes three embryos are reimplanted, after they have developed to the two or four cell stage.

Professor Craft said that use of a new type of catheter, made of Teflon, to introduce the embryos through the cervix and back into the womb, had also contributed to the success, as had improved methods of preparing and concentrating the sperm before fertilization.

In the case of the woman now carrying twins, an attempt to give her a test-tube baby in July failed. In September, however, ova were obtained and fertilized, and the embryos were inserted 49 hours after the ova were removed.

The pregnant woman has no previous children and was in fact born with one ovary and fallopian tube missing. Most of the remaining fallopian tube had to be removed last year, when she suffered an ectopic pregnancy, a potentially dangerous condition when the embryo implants in a fallopian tuge rather than the womb.

"Her only chance of becoming pregnant was by the test-tube baby technique", Professor Craft said.

He praised the work of the research team of four, and the patients "who are prepared to go to any lengths to have a child".

The work has been financed almost entirely by the National Health Service, as part of the hospital's normal work, with no charge to patients.

On average three to four women a week are treated by the test-tube baby technique at the Royal Free Hospital, which has had to restrict the number of patients treated. Professor Craft said it would not be possible to expand the programme because of other commitments.

"At the moment it is very time-consuming, although the procedures are relatively simple in principle. Our current interest is in trying to see whether we can simplify the technique to make it possible for women to be treated in their local district general hospital.

"It is important that people realize that this technique is not the answer to all forms of infertility. It may, however, be the most cost-effective way of dealing with diseases of the fallopian tube, rather than conventional forms of surgery.

"It might also be used to treat other forms of infertility, such as unexplained infertility.

Ministers will defend job training plan

By Our Labour Staff

The Government will mount a strong defence of the proposals that are likely to be most controversial in the new package of training measures which it will unveil tomorrow.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has come under pressure from some leading moderate backbenchers to ensure that the plans do not founder because of poor "presentation".

They fear that the Government's plans to transform the training system, which they welcome, could be prejudiced by the controversy over the proposed reduction in young people's allowances to about £16 a week, and the withholding of supplementary benefit from those who refuse a training place.

The two measures seem likely to provoke an outcry from trade union leaders. The TUC has been pressing the Government to increase the Youth Opportunities Programme allowance from £23.50 a week to £30.

Anxious Conservative backbenchers have been meeting Mr Tebbit privately to urge that the £16 should be increased by a substantial contribution from employers.

One option they have put to him is that youngsters should initially get £25, which would rise by stages to £30 and eventually to £40.

In any case, however, ministers are likely to emphasize that the lower payment envisaged in tomorrow's White Paper, which will be followed by further consultations before a Bill is introduced, will not mean sweeping away the current YOP allowance immediately.

The allowance, or some form of it, is likely to continue until the new scheme, which may not begin operating until the autumn of 1982, and will take a year or more to build up *after that, is running*.

The scheme, which is expected to add about £350m to the cost of special employment measures, will also provide for a new "open tech" on the model of the Open University, an important reform of the apprenticeship scheme.

Snow cuts shops' profits

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Non-food retailers, already pessimistic about Christmas sales volumes because of pressure on disposable incomes, fear the weather could give them their worst December for years.

Many are expected to follow the example of the Argos discount catalogue stores chain, which plans to open for an extra two hours each evening until Christmas to give snow-beleaguered customers a better chance to get to shops.

Argos, which is part of BAT Industries, is also starting talks today with local authorities and shopping centre managements to get agreement to opening next Sunday.

Customers in rural areas are having particular difficulty in getting to the shops. As the weather worsens, distribution will be progressively affected and some shortages are threatened.

J. Sainsbury said yesterday that its pattern of early morning delivery to its stores throughout the country had not yet been affected much, although some deliveries later in the day have been delayed.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), based in Manchester, suppliers to the co-operative retail societies, which together make up Britain's largest retail organization, yesterday reported no great delivery difficulties so far.

Argos, which has 116 catalogue showrooms and has been a leading discounter on toy prices to attract Christmas shoppers, reported sales last week to be 21 per cent down on expectations.

Christmas sales are crucial to a number of sectors as well as the toy industry, which makes 70 per cent of its sales at this peri d.

Wine and spirit sales peak at this time of the year; other sectors which normally see high December sales, apart from obvious seasonal goods such as crackers and cards, are confectionery and small electrical goods.

Argos estimates it lost £500,000 in expected profits last week as customers were put off by the weather.

London is arena for terrorists

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The consequences of violent Middle Eastern Political conflicts are often to be seen in London. El Al airline crews never travel without a large police escort, Arab embassies are guarded by television cameras and the Iranian Embassy, in Prince's Gate, Kensington, still bears the scars of last year's siege.

For almost eight years London has been the arena for bloody skirmishes in the battles between countries and factions from half way across the world, and there is little sign that the skirmishes will stop.

London became a target because by the late 1970s it was both a pleasure resort for the Arab world and a haven for refugees from Middle Eastern power struggle.

In London today, there are representatives of almost every Arab faction, ranging from Kurdish separatists to Egyptians.

Terrorists arrive and survive because it is extremely difficult to single them out. Police have an intelligence system for checking arrivals at air and sea ports but it is far from infallible despite 40,000 checks last year.

The list of recent terrorist incidents in London is extensive, and includes the following:

1981: June—Suspected explosion at Iraqi Embassy, Queen's Gate. 1980: December—Firebomb at Libyan airlines office, Piccadilly. September—Iraqi student found at Heathrow carrying TNT into the country in tubes of shaving cream. June—Bomb shatters front of Kuwait Oil Company in New Bond Street. First Secretary of Libyan Embassy expelled after announcing plans to kill more opponents of the Gaddafi regime.

April/May—Iranian Embassy attacked, hostages taken. Two Libyans murdered, one, a journalist, on leaving the central London mosque in Regent's Park. Explosion in Iranian terrorists' bomb factory on fourth floor of Queen's Gardens Hotel, Bayswater, kills one and injures another. January—Arab dies in London hotel bomb explosion.

1979: December—Iraqi detained at Heathrow with explosives and detonators.

Tatchell appeals for a hearing

By Philip Webster and David Walker

Mr Peter Tatchell and the officers of Bermondsey Labour Party have appealed to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee to be allowed to put their case before it decides whether to confirm the organization committee's refusal to endorse Mr Tatchell as a parliamentary candidate.

A letter has been sent to Mr Ronald Hayward, Labour's general secretary, asking the NEC to defer a decision until the Bermondsey party has had an opportunity of defending itself.

Mr Tatchell told *The Times* last night that he, Mr Edward Bowman, the Bermondsey party chairman, and Mrs Bette Crickmar, the vice-chairman, would go on Wednesday to Transport House, where the NEC is expected to confirm the rejection of Mr Tatchell and the decision to set up an inquiry into the Militant Tendency.

The letter is the latest move in a defiant campaign by Mr Tatchell and his party to resist last week's decision. His case has been taken up by the far left as a test case, and Mr Wedgwood Benn will be speaking in his support at a rally, organized to bring further pressure on the NEC in Rotherhithe tomorrow night.

☐ Mr William Hamilton yesterday held off a strong left-wing Labour challenge and was reselected as prospective parliamentary candidate in his constituency of Fife, Central. A selection conference last week ended in a tie between Mr Hamilton and Mr Henry McLeish. Yesterday, after a week of determined lobbying by both camps, Mr Hamilton won by 22 votes to 14.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the EEC.

☐ Miss Harriet Harman, who describes herself as a supporter of Mr Wedgwood Benn, was *last night selected* as Labour candidate for the South London constituency of Peckham. This represents another shift to the left in London Labour parties. The present Labour MP for Peckham is Mr Harry Lamborn aged 66, a moderate who has acted as campaign manager for Mr Denis Healey in party leadership elections.

By-election challenge

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, the MP who left the Labour Party and joined the Social Democrats, was challenged yesterday to fight a by-election in his constituency of Abertillery. Mr Robert Bartlett, the Labour Party secretary in the South Wales constituency, said he would pay Mr Thomas's deposit.

Mr Thomas has rejected the challenge, but the SDP steering committee will be meeting in London today to discuss difficulties caused for the party by Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann's determination to fight a by-election in his Merton, Mitcham and Morden constituency after announcing his own withdrawal from the Labour Party.

He wants a by-election because he has changed his views on the EEC, but has angered both the SDP leaders, who regard his stance as self-indulgent, and the constituency Social Democrats, who feel it is unacceptable for him to say he wants to be selected by the SDP.

Leading article, page 9
End of rates demands, page 3
Diary, page 8

HOWE 'WILL NOT CUT BENEFITS'

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Conservative MPs who rebelled against the Government in last week's public spending debate believe their action has persuaded Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to drop his plan to cut short-term benefits by 2 per cent in real terms.

After a private meeting of Conservative backbenchers late last Tuesday night Mr Michael Jopling, the chief whip, was told that there would be a "double-figure abstention" in the debate the next day, but that at least twice that number would vote against the short-term benefit orders when they came before the Commons.

Having shown, with 14 abstentions, that their threat on the public spending vote was not an empty one, the critics are certain that the Government will not risk humiliation on the 2 per cent. "We have won on this one. They have seen sense", a prominent abstainer said yesterday.

In a sense the Chancellor's retreat on the 2 per cent cut, which would have saved the Treasury about £60m, was inevitable. Only a few more than twenty Conservatives would have been required to vote with the Opposition to defeat it. The critics know they can muster more than enough.

The "wets" are now turning their sights towards the Budget. They have told ministers they are looking for a series of proposals that will give positive encouragement to industry, and in so doing offer hope to the unemployed, capital investment on projects like the Channel tunnel a move against high interest rates and the beginning of the end of the national insurance surcharge.

Science report

Absence of gene leads to stunted growth

By the Staff of "Nature"

The absence of a gene has now been shown to be the cause of a form of stunted growth in human beings that cannot be treated by the administration of human growth hormone.

The discovery, due to Dr John A. Philips and Brian L. Hjelle from the Johns Hopkins University, Dr Peter Seeburg from Genentech, the United States genetic engineering company, and Dr Milo Zachmann from Zurich University, is based on a genetic analysis of 15 members of three related Swiss families in which the growth deficiency is inherited. All six parents have normal stature, but the growth of four out of nine children is stunted.

Much stunted growth seems to be caused by a deficiency of the naturally occurring hormone called human growth hormone which can be corrected by the administration during infancy and afterwards of hormone obtained from dead people. The Swiss cases now studied cannot be dealt with in this way because they produce antibodies when normal growth hormone is injected, thus neutralizing its effects. Such "type A" cases of growth hormone are a small fraction of all the cases which arise, estimated at about one in 6,000 of all live births.

The proof that the four affected Swiss children entirely lack the gene responsible for making human growth hormone has been accomplished through techniques of genetic engineering.

On the evidence available chromosomes from the four children entirely lack pieces of DNA corresponding to the natural gene for human growth hormone, which is known to be located on the human chromosome seventeen.

The authors of the research conclude that those with type A growth hormone deficiency have inherited from each of their parents a set of chromosomes in which the hormone gene is missing. Persons inheriting one normal set of chromosomes and another with a missing gene appear to produce enough of the normal hormone to be able to grow to normal stature.

Presumably individuals with the type A deficiency produce antibodies which neutralize injected hormone because, never having produced the hormone for themselves, they have no [illegible] distinguishing betwe[illegible] some other foreign [illegible]

The research may [illegible] a clearer understand[illegible] the commoner form [illegible] growth hormone defic[illegible] This is of practical im[illegible]tance when genetic engin[illegible]ing companies are trying [illegible] manufacture the hormone.

In Britain, the issue has recently become of particular importance because of the way in which supplies of the hormone, derived from public and hospital mortuaries, have recently declined, so that the National Health Service is soon to reduce the doses of the material administered to patients.

Source: *Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences*, Vol 78, pp 6372-6375 (October 1981).

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Fedorowicz triumphs

From Harry Golombek
Brighton

By beating Hebden in a complicated game in the ninth and last round of the Regency Masters Tournament here yesterday, the American international master John Fedorowicz not only *first prize but* also achieved grandmaster status by gaining seven points.

King, Kovacevic, the British grandmasters Miles, Nunn and Regan shared second place with 6½ points.

Cox, Hartoch, Hebden and Pytel tied for seventh place with six points.

Remaining scores: Berg, Hodgson, Kenworthy, Kuligowski, Plaskett and Taulbut: 5½ points; Britton, Casa, Cummings, Friedgood, Jacobs, Kosten, G Lee, Leverett, Pliester and Westerinen: 5 points; Bohm, Hanrick, Law, Manouck[illegible] and Patrick: 4½ points; C[illegible] de Boer, Iskov, Muir, Nokes, Nykopp, Povah, Rose, van der Sterren 4 points; Dunnington, Flear, Miss Fishtick and Tröger: 3½ points; Formanek, D Lee, Roll, Schiller, Mlle Tagnon, Miss van Parreren: 3 points; Haldemann and O'Brien: 2½ points; Josephs 1 point.

CORRECTION

An opinion poll in Scotland after the Crosby by-election showed 27 per cent support, compared with 16 per cent two months earlier, for the SDP-Liberal Alliance, not the SDP as reported on December 4.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 25; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 500 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 6.50; France Frs 6.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 75; Holland Gl 3; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1600; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon L1 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 6.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 75; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 7.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria L$5.50; Tunisia Din .600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.

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London Labour group to stop demanding rates

By David Walker

A policy of deliberately created financial anarchy which could mark the beginning of the end of the Labour Party as the prime mover in the municipal government of London was adopted at a weekend conference as the official tactic against the Government's new Local Finance Bill.

Delegates from more than eighty constituencies and a score of trade unions on the Greater London Regional Council of the Labour Party decided to cease to draw up budgets and levy rates next year.

That would foment a local government crisis, the executive committee said.

Mr Edward Knight, leader of Lambeth council and one of the architects of the policy, amplified that into "a crisis of such dimension that you persuade the Government to retreat or you force the very existence of that Government on to the agenda".

Mr Knight wants Lambeth to try the policy first, but one Lambeth councillor, Mr Neil Turner, said that the council's director of finance would be suspended if he came between the Labour group and its policy.

While the London Labour Party has decided to take all possible steps to resist the Tory Government's attacks on local authority services, its resolution adds: "We do not expect Labour councillors to embark on any course of action which is clearly contrary to law."

Thanks to the block vote cast by the large London region of the Transport and General Workers' Union, acting in concert with the electricians and general workers' delegations, the party was saved from adopting policies of mass mobilization of town hall staff of general strikes, and rejected a motion calling on Labour councils to freeze rents, make no rate increases and not to cut spending.

The conference had been called when the Local Finance Bill still contained the proposal to force councils to hold referendums before levying rates above a certain level. That has now been dropped from the Bill and Mr Arthur Latham, the conference chairman, was clearly embarrassed that he did not know what the Bill will now contain.

Other suggestions included "disengagement", with Labour councillors resigning from their committee chairmanships in order to allow opposition councillors to put disliked policies into effect.

The few Labour council leaders in attendance, including Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, preferred to stay put. "We will stay in there and fight", he said.

Members of militant tendency, including most of the Labour Party Young Socialists, favoured a 24-hour general strike. "It could force the tories to retreat and begin a determined drive to force a general election", a young socialists' resolution said.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Enviroment, might have drawn some comfort from the proceedings, if only to observe how deep his message about rate levels has sunk. Mr Knight said: "Raising rates is politicallly and practically unacceptable".

Fifteen thousand people, one in four of London Transport's staff, will lose their jobs if Lord Denning's decision on the illegality of the GLC's fares subsidy is upheld by the House of Lords when it gives judgment this week, Mr Livingstone said.

He asked the conference delegates whether the Labour Party could stay in power on the council if that was the consequence of the judgment. He promised not to avoid a fight.

Chief officers at County Hall believe that the reason for the delay in the Lords' giving judgment is that they have been working out the practical consequences of forcing the GLC to reverse its decision on the subsidy.

One possible outcome is that the supplementary rate levied by the GLC to pay for the fare reductions will be declared illegal. However, the GLC could raise fares to their pre-October level, impose a new supplementary rate and then cut fares again.

The Inner London Education Authority faces financial difficulties because October's supplememary rate also contained a £35m levy for the authorities. It has so far received only £6.1m and unless the supplementary rate is paid soon, payments to schools and teachers may be in danger.

The GLC itself had received only £15m out of £120m when Lord Denning and the Court of Appeal ruled the supplementary rate to be illegal. If the Lords overturns the decision London boroughs will have to pay millions of pounds to the GLC immediately, plus a substantial interest penalty. Ratepayers would have to pay the whole levy by March 31.

□ London Transport's top executives are to receive a pay rise of 7.5 per cent. The GLC will be asked tomorrow to approve rises that give Sir Peter Masefield, the chairman, £36,550 a year backdated to April 1.

A question over railways' future

Electrification threatened by track record

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

British Rail is having great difficulty making a case for electrification under the conditions laid down by the Government last June.

Of the routes recommended for electrification in the joint BR/Dept of Transport report in February, only one, the east coast main line from King's Cross to York and Newcastle upon Tyne, has shown the required profit.

The next four in priority are the Midlands main line to Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield; the western main line to Bristol and South Wales; the West of England line to Exeter and Plymouth; and the North-east to South-west line from Newcastle to Birmingham and Cardiff.

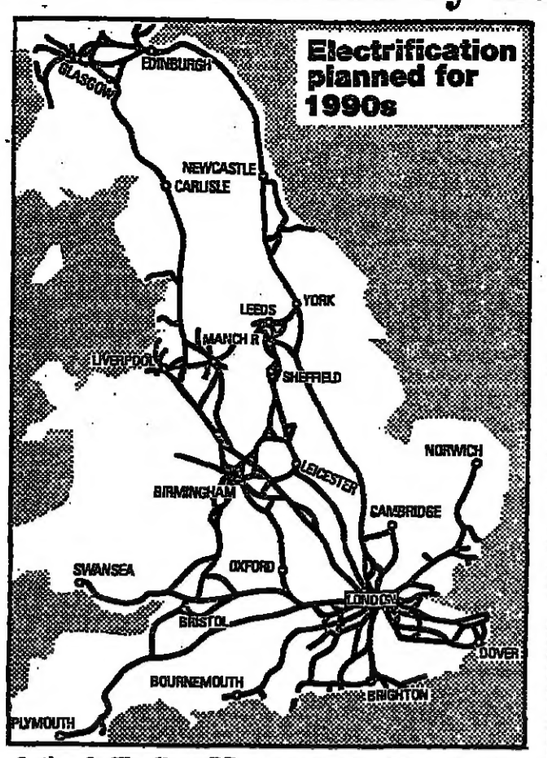
British Rail is making a desperate effort to improve its business forecast for those routes by increasing revenue, productivity and efficiency, in order to heave them into profit.

The most striking fact to emerge from the present exercise is that it is not about electrification at all. It is about the future of the railway itself.

The big question raised by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet hawks, when February's joint report went ominously quiet in the spring, was not whether electrification merited investment but whether the railway did.

Everyone, including Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, apparently accepts that if Britain's trunk routes are worth investment, they are worth electrifying. But the performance of the "commercial railway" — Inter-City passenger and freight — has been deteriorating since 1978 and shows no sign of earning the profit to which both BR and the Government became committed in the mid-1970's.

As one senior railway manager put it yesterday: "The February review was conducted on the basis of an ongoing railway, and the question was whether there is a case for electric rather than diesel traction. The answer to which BR and the Department of Transport subscribe was clearly "yes".



Option 3: The lines BR wants to electrify under the 10-year programme.

Electrification yielded an 11 per cent return over diesel on the traffic forecast used. But under Walters the conditions were changed. The argument ceased to be about electric versus diesel and became about the ongoing railway.

Mr Norman Fowler, then Minister of Transport, announced on June 22 that he was "inviting BR to prepare and submit a 10-year programme of schemes for electrification only of those potentially profitable main line routes where it is clear that the benefits would justify the investment".

The approval of each successive electrification project would depend on the profitability of the investment in question and on the achievement of necessary improvements in productivity, he said.

The Treasury test of a 7 per cent real return on each route to be electrified emerged as the guideline in subsequent talks between BR and the department.

To suspicious railwaymen that could be construed as a plot to reduce the railway to only those parts that show an individual profit, and those parts of the "social railway" — commuter, provincial and rural lines — that the Government chooses to subsidize.

That is denied by the Department of Transport, which points out that the February report called for improved financial performance by the commercial railway and productivity gains.

The department says that Mr Fowler's statement contained a commitment to a 10-year rolling programme of electrification, provided the conditions were met. That put it in a similar position to roads, which are also built on a rolling programme, but where individual schemes are brought forward only if they show an adequate return.

The 10-year programme is much smaller than the 20-year programme advocated in February. British Rail is now trying to make a case for something more like option 3 of that report (shown in the accompanying map) rather than the largest option, originally recommended.

The third option is for a 4,600-mile network instead of 5,800, and excludes from electrification such extremities as Penzance, Holyhead, Aberdeen and Hull.

The targets for productivity and profitability are those set by the BR board, the department says. But the board, caught in an unforeseen recession, knows it is not meeting those targets, and argues that the railway's long-term future should not be judged by a short-term position. The targets should be changed, or the programme proceeded with anyway.

Mr Fowler said in June that the Government had made its commitment, and wanted a matching commitment from BR in the form of improved profitability and productivity.

Some railway leaders accept that. "We do not quarrel with attempts to make us more efficient managers", one said. "We know there are big savings to be made both in the operation of services and the infrastructure and overheads.

"The results of freight and Inter-City are disappointing. It looks like taking longer than we thought to hit the target. They have every right to be suspicious of railway forecasts."

Outcry over developers' plans for two sites

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

Conservationists are making final efforts to stop construction projects which they say will destroy the character of two widely separated historic sites the hidden courtyard of Wardrobe Place, in the City of London, and grounds at Highclere Park, Hampshire, which were landscaped by Capability Brown.

The conservationists are angry about the Government's refusal to hold a public inquiry into plans to rebuild part of Wardrobe Place and to route a dual carriageway through the park. They say that the new road could be kept clear of the park at little cost.

Warnford Investments, owners of the Wardrobe Place buildings, has submitted new proposals after a more ambitious plan was opposed earlier this year.

"We are confident that we shall get planning permission", a Warnford spokesman said, adding that the scheme "balances the needs of the future with restoration and preservation".

Mr Geoffrey Fox, an accountant who works in Wardrobe Place and is chairman of its new tenants' association, said: "We want the plan thrown out. It is an improvement, but if it goes ahead Georgian buildings in this quiet backwater of the City will be dominated by twentieth-century buildings."

Objectors to plans for a road through Highclere Park claim that ministers have broken their own rules in deciding not to hold a public inquiry. The road is meant to relieve one of the last narrow sections of the A34 between Oxford and Southampton.

Mr John Anscomb, spokesman for the Highclere Park Action Group, said that the Government's manual on trunk roads states that an inquiry may be dispensed with only when there are few objections and when "none of them raises an issue of substance or a matter of general public importance".

The Department of Transport said that the route had been supported by 424 people of whom all but three were from the immediate locality, and that objectors numbered 225, of whom only 30 were from the immediate area.

Embassy criticized over Paisley

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr David Burnside, an Organizer of a visit by "loyalist" politicians from Northern Ireland to the United States, yesterday criticized staff at the British Embassy in Washington and the Foreign Office in London for a "total lack of support" in helping with the arrangements.

As opposition to the two-week visit continued to grow in the United States, Mr Burnside said he expected the full backing of the campaign Government. More Dairy Co Congressmen have tore the letter to try to latta bo President Reagan a visa given to the Paisley.

Loy aisley, leader of the The atic Unionist Party, vis be on the "Operation poli campaign. He will be putting the Unionist Party point of view to meetings in 20 cities across America and on television.

Mr Peter Robinson, his deputy Mr John Taylor and Mrs Norah Bradford, representing the Official Unionists, are going too. Mrs Bradford is taking the place of her husband, the Rev Robert Bradford, who was murdered last month.

Mr Burnside, the campaign's spokesman, said: "Opposition to this visit is growing in America and we feel that whatever our differences with the British Government, we deserve the support of the embassy and Foreign Office. There has been a total lack of support so far".

He expected the embassy and Foreign Office to fight any attempt to stop Mr Paisley's visa. The Americans had invited spokesmen from the Republican cause and it is right that Unionists should be allowed to put their point of view, he said.

"The opposition growing in America is disgraceful and we expect support, as this is primarily a visit of British parliamentarians".

In Belfast today Lord Gowrie, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, is expected to have talks on the demands made during a 32-hour protest of loyalist prisoners held on remand in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. The protest, in which four prison officers were held hostage but not injured, ended at 1.0 am on Saturday and later that day about 200 prisoners in A-wing were moved to other parts of the prison.

This morning Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast, East, and Mr John McQuade, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast, North, accompanied by Mr John Carson, a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, will visit the prison.

The prisoners are demanding segregation from republicans, a return to prison procedures in existence before 1976 and assurances about rights. They also want a report by a team from the International Red Cross on conditions in prisons in the province to be published. It was drawn up last summer after a fact-finding mission by three members of the IRC, and the Government has promised that it would be made public.

Next Monday Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to hold a one-day seminar at Stormont on the economy of Northern Ireland. Invitations have been sent to the province's MPs and Euro-MPs, except for Mr Owen Carron, Independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. However, the Official Unionists have refused to attend and the indications are that Mr Paisley will not be going either.

Mr Prior made clear when he took over as Secretary of State that the province's grave economic problems were of paramount concern to him, and he is looking for an open exchange of views at the meeting.

Toxteth plan threatened

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, is to meet Toxteth community leaders tonight to discuss his new proposals for community policing in the district.

He will present his plans to defuse tension in the riot-scarred area which were supported earlier this month by the county's police authority. But already the meeting, to be chaired by Mgr Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, has become shrouded in controversy.

The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, the main group representing blacks in Toxteth, have boycotted any discussions with Mr Oxford. They are likely to be joined in their protest by officials of the Merseyside Community Relations Council.

After the summer riots Mr Oxford organized a similar meeting of community leaders. That too was boycotted by the committee.

□ The setting up of a consultative committee to improve relations between the police and the community in Moss Side, Manchester has been recommended by a conference called to draw up a plan for the area

Prison education plea

By Our Political Staff

A Conservative MP today will urge an all-party inquiry into prison education, suggesting that it be placed on a statutory basis.

Mr Harry Greenway, the member for Ealing, North, is to tell the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, which will be meeting to consider its future programme of work, that prisoners should make more positive use of their time in custody and that at present, only 3 per cent of money spent on prisons goes towards education.

He will suggest that prisoners should statutorily be enabled to attempt to prove themselves academically suitable for particular courses. Mr Greenway said yesterday that he would make education an alternative to work in prisons.

"There is a fairly explosive situation in our prisons with such high numbers," he said. "We have to take positive measures to occupy them to promote a positive atmosphere

Mr Greenway introduced a Bill in the last session of Parliament to provide for the aims he has in mind and he hopes to introduce a similar one in this session.

HIGH FEAST

More than thirty officers and cadets from the Berwick Air Training Corps cele brated Christmas early yesterday, at the top of The Cheviot, altitude 2,676 feet, in north Northumberland. They walked to the top and had a traditional Christmas lunch, including chicken, Christmas pudding and mince pies.

Two of the dead: Mr Paul Cousins and Nicholas McManus, aged 12.

victim's Christmas toys given away

The toys and Christmas presents of a schoolboy killed in last Friday's train crash at Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, were taken to a special toy service at his local church yesterday.

The parents of Andrew Russell decided to give the presents he would have received to the service so that they will be distributed to children in Tower Hamlets, London.

The boy, aged 12, died with his best friend, Nicholas McManus, also aged 12, as they sat in the front carriage of a train taking them to the Royal Grammar School, in High Wycombe. The train ran into a stationary one.

Mrs Mary Russell, the boy's mother, of Layters Way, Gerrards Cross, said: "He was a very loving, willing, helpful boy and because he had helped us a lot recently we had bought him a radio-controlled car for Christmas.

"Andrew chose it himself, but now I do not know what we will do with it. I have given all his other little presents and stocking fillers to our local church."

On Saturday Mrs Russell and Nicholas McManus' mother comforted each other in their grief. Mrs Russell said: "It is a terrible loss. We have both lost our eldest sons. But when you come from a Christian family you know that Andrew is in a far happier place than we are now."

Mr Jeffrey McManus of Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, said Christmas presents that had been bought for his son, Nicholas, would now be given to his other son, Robert, aged nine.

The two other people who died in the crash were Mr Paul Cousins, aged 17, of Broom Close, Oxford Road, Tatling End, near Gerrards Cross, and Mr Thomas Shaw, aged 32, of Harlesden, London, who was driving the passenger train. He was married with two children.

British Rail held an internal inquiry into the accident on Saturday, but it said later it did not reach any conclusion, as some witnesses were not available. The inquiry will be resumed today but the findings will not be made public. It is expected that a full public inquiry will be held later.

Maplin site plea may be dropped

By Our Environmental Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association may drop its planning application to site London's third airport at Maplin, Essex, this week. The validity of the application is being considered by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr David Hall, director of the association, said that it was reassured by a pledge from Mr Graham Eyre, QC, that evidence in favour of Maplin by objectors to expansion of the airport at Stansted, Essex, would be considered even if Mr Heseltine ruled against the application.

Mr Eyre is the independent inspector appointed by ministers to conduct the third airport inquiry, which enters its twelfth week tomorrow. He said that if he considered the Maplin application frivolous he would make "robust representations" to Mr Heseltine to award costs against the association.

If we felt there was some real danger of costs being awarded against us we would be in some difficulty", Mr Hall said. The association's financial report for last year, published less than a fortnight ago, spoke of "a very difficult cash flow positic... which was especially acute during the latter part of the year".

Mr Eyre has been told by Rochford District Council, whose area includes Maplin, that the application is too vague to be considered seriously, but the inspector said that all questions of validity must be decided by Mr Heseltine.

Mr Hall said: "The prime consideration for us is the extent to which we can ensure that the Maplin alternative is considered. The statement made by the inspector removes one stumbling block.

"We think we have a very strong case for rejecting the view that we have behaved frivolously. We are flying the flag of the community at large".

The association intended to submit all its evidence about Maplin to the inquiry by the end of the year irrespective of how Mr Heseltine ruled on the application.

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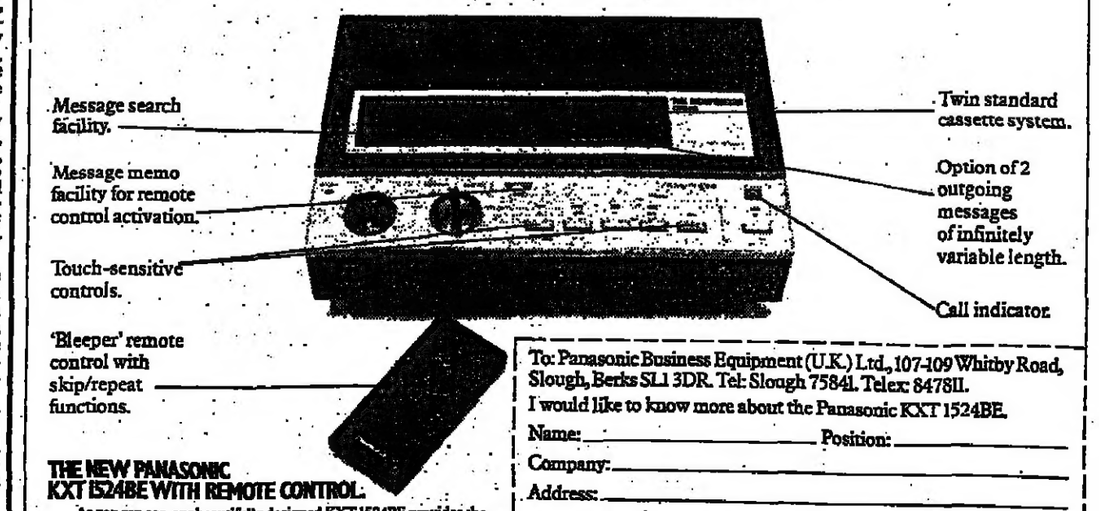

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Libyans set out to disprove Reagan charges

Tripoli, Dec 13. — Libya is mounting a big campaign to disprove President Reagan's allegation that Americans living and working here are in imminent danger.

The authorities yesterday invited a group of senior executives of American companies to a reception in Tripoli so they could tell Western journalists what they thought of the President's request that they should leave Libya.

The 20 businessmen declined to be quoted directly but they were in general agreement that the Reagan Administration had overestimated the alleged threat posed by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. Some with wives and childen in Libya said they had no fears for the safety of their familes.

Despite President Reagan's call last Thursday that Americans should leave Libya and his decision to cancel passports for travel to this country, some were flying into Tripoli yesterday.

They were more outspoken than their employers about Mr Reagan's decision. "I think it stinks", Mr Russ Duclos, aged 30, an oilrigger from Bakersfield, California, said. He said a job in Libya meant high wages working in the oil fields and he did not know whether he would find as good a job elsewhere.

Mr Wendell Davis, aged 47, an oilfield worker from Bollinger, Texas, who has spent the past five years in Libya, said he was flying back to Tripoli to give his notice. He said he felt obliged to abide by Mr Reagan's call to leave but added: "I am also bound to give 30 days notice to my Libyan employers."

As part of their efforts to counter the American allegations the Libyan authcrities have invited Western jounalists to a press conference which Colonel Gaddafi may decide to hold in the coming days.

Libyan officials were eager to prove that Americans are generally happy working in Libya and have little desire to leave. Mr Omar Mustafa Montasser, the Heavy Industries Secretary, told Reuters last night: "They (American Businessmen) told me they do not want to leave but they are worried what action might be taken against them in the United States if they refuse."

He dismissed allegations by the Reagan Administration that Colonel Gaddafi had dispatched assassination squads to kill the President. "Who had tried to kill him last time and who killed Kennedy?" he said. "Their own papers on the other hand report plans that they wanted to kill Colonel Gaddafi and that they planned to kill Fidel Castro by using the Mafia."

The American oil companies which operate here in partnership with Libya have announced they will abide by the call to withdraw their American staff. but it appeared likely they would remain in operation. Mr Montasser said the firms would probably choose to replace outgoing Americans with other expatriates.

No other Western country has joined the United States action against Libya. Britain has said it does not see any threat to its 6,000 citizens here and France announced last week it will restore full relations with Libya, which it no longer considers a terrorist threat.

President Reagan alleges that Colonel Gaddafi supports international terrorism and threatens American interests in the Middle East.

An indication of the West European attitude is the steady arrival of schoolchildren to spend the Christmas holidays with their parents here. Mrs Pat Parr, a British houswife from Reston, Cheshire, arriving with her young daughter to spend the holidays with her husband said: "I do not know what all the fuss is about. I think Reagan is crazy" — Reuter.

Pope sends scientists to ward off atom war

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Dec 13

The Pope is this week sending scientists to the four big powers and to the United Nations to warn them of the risk of destroying humanity in a nuclear war.

The mission to London, it is stated in the Vatican will consist of five scientists, including Professor Carlos Chagas, the Brazilian president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and a Nobel Prize winner, Max Perutz.

The missions will take a report by a working group of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which was set up in 1979 to study the effects of nuclear bombardments. The study group, according to a statement, investigated "the forecasts of total destruction which would become a desolating reality in the event of employment of such types of nuclear armaments".

With the missions, the Pope is engaged on a more detailed and direct initiative in favour of peace than ever undertaken by his predecessors. It follows another recent initiative, the dispatch of personal letters to President Reagan and President Brezhnev on the eve of the Geneva missile negotiations.

Addressing pilgrims in St Peter's Square today, the Pope said it was "in the spirit *of profound* preoccupation before the terrifying hypothesis of an atomic war" that he had asked the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France as well as the President of the United Nations General Assembly to receive the delegations.

They would illustrate the scientific document on the consequences of nuclear war drawn up by members of the Pontifical Academy, together with other eminent scientists.

"I and profoundly convinced that, in the face of the effects predicted by science as certain in a nuclear war the only choice, morally and humanely valid, is represented by the reduction of nuclear armament."

The Polish crisis: Who is in charge and their major economic challenge

How Army has filled vacuum left by party

By Richard Owen

The assumption of power by a Military Council in Poland has created a new, hybrid form of government without parallel in post-war Eastern Europe. Martial law was introduced by the Hungarian authorities in 1956, but the political structure of Hungary was not affected.

In Poland, by contrast, the armed forces in effect have taken the reins of power into their hands, leaving the machinery of the communist state intact but without a defined role, and it is as yet far from clear how the resulting system will work.

In any other context the developments in Poland would be classed as a military coup, and the actions of General Jaruzelski and senior military colleagues certainly have all the hallmarks of a military takeover in the classic manner.

The council's declaration that it will honour the "political and defence alliances" and "agreements and obligations" entered into by its predecessors is precisely the kind of language used by military commanders elsewhere in the world when they wish to emphasize national continuity.

The insistence on the "temporary" nature of the takeover "until the situation becomes normalized" also reflects the language of generals stepping in to salvage a desperate situation, and the introduction of restrictions on citizens' freedoms—including a dusk to dawn curfew—would also seem familiar to those outside Eastern Europe who have woken up to find the armed forces in charge.

General Jaruzelski himself the less justified in saying that what he has done does not amount to "a dictatorship or military coup d'état". Polish life has already become increasingly "militarized" over the past year; so that the declaration of martial law is a logical extension of what had gone before, rather than a totally unexpected departure.

General Jaruselski himself embodies the curious nature of the system which has evolved. As First Secretary of the Communist Party, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and head of the armed forces, he for some time has combined functions which in any state, including Communist ones, are normally separated.

The principle which has hitherto prevailed in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, is that the military power is subordinate to the civil power, and any attempt by representatives of the armed forces to gain undue influence has been rebuffed by the party. But during the Polish crisis the Army has gradually come to the fore, filling the vacuum left by the communist authorities.

Poles have become used to the sight of joint Army and police patrols on the streets, and to operational military groups ferreting out corruption and administrative incompetence in backward provincial areas.

Generals have assumed key ministerial positions in areas such as the mining industry, and according to some accounts have displayed ill-concealed exasperation with the foot-dragging nature of the Polish bureaucracy.

Increasingly impatient both with an obstructionist state apparatus and with Solidarity, General Jaruselski has reached for the last weapon in his armoury the subjection of the whole of Polish society to military rule and discipline. The proclamation of a state of emergency—or a "state of war" (*stan wojenny*) in the alarming-sounding Polish — is provided for by a law of November 21, 1967, in circumstances where there is judged to be a "direct threat to the security of the state".

In addition, General Jaruselski appears to have invoked Article 33 of the Polish constitution in an amended version introduced by the new military authorities.

The powers granted to the "Military Council of National Salvation" by these provisions are drastic, including the banning of trade union activity, strict censorship of mail and telecommunications, and the closure of Poland's borders.

It is possible that General Jaruselski would have preferred to propose milder emergency regulations, but in the current climate he might well have been obstructed by the rejuvenated Sejm (Parliament), and so has used the statutory instruments most readily available.

These include blanket powers of arrest in the case of Polish citizens whose "behaviour in the past" gives rise to "justified suspicion" that they might, "if left free", infringe the legal order or threaten the interests and security of the state.

Apart from such wide-ranging provisions for internment "for the duration of martial law", adult Poles, including of course members of Solidarity, may be liable for conscription, either into military service or into civil defence bodies.

What has yet to emerge is exactly how the armed forces will be used to maintain public order, especially if the emergency regulations are resisted, or if Solidarity's call for a general strike is heeded. Since the bloody riots of December, 1970, on the Baltic coast, it has been popularly assumed that regular troops would never be used against the Polish people.

The wo organizations therefore thought most likely to be willing to perform the odious tasks associated with controlling disturbances, should they occur, are the riot police, and the security police, or SB.

The question is how long a military regime of this kind will last, and how it will coexist with the institutions of the communist state. The Military Council has emphasized that its existence does not affect the "powers of any organ of the peoples authority", and the Politburo and Central Committee presumably continue to exercise supreme power in a formal sense.

On the other hand, the council has taken over on the grounds that the normal functioning of administrative and economic bodies has become impossible, and has said it will itself exercise power through "departmental, provincial, municipal and parish plenipotentiaries".

THE ARRESTS

ARRESTED: Tadensz Wrzaszczyk, former Politburo member; Edward Gierek, former party leader; Jan Szydlak, another former member of the Politburo, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, the former Prime Minister.

Ex-Prime Minister among those held

By Our Foreign Staff

The state of siege declared in Poland yesterday has led to a round-up of political and trade union figures detained under the martial law regulations. All the Solidarity union federation leaders meeting in Gdansk were included, with the exception of Mr Lech Walesa, the union's leader. He was said to have travelled to Warsaw for talks with the Government.

Well informed sources said about 1,000 people were detained in the first swoops, though only a few names were immediately known. Apart from Solidarity members, dozens of former Government figures were included. Demands that people high up in the previous regime of Mr Edward Gierek should be punished were widespread in Poland, and not only from Solidarity.

Six former Politburo members of the Gierek regime are known to have been detained. They are:

Edward Gierek, the former Party leader, who was removed from the leadership in September last year. He had since retired to Katowice. Several inquiries were made, one of them about how he acquired his degree in mining engineering, and his large house. He was expelled from the party in July this year.

Piotr Jaroszewicz, the former Prime Minister. He lost the premiership in February, 1980, and his name was linked with many allegations of corruption and embezzlement.

Jerzy Lukaszewicz, a former member of the Politburo, in charge of ideology, including press and radio, who was expelled at the same time as Mr Gierek.

Jan Szydlak, a former member of the Politburo, and at one time head of the official trade union. He was in charge of investigations into the 1970 riots in Gdansk.

Tadeusz Wrzaszczyk, one of the secretaries of the Central Committee. He was in charge of Party foreign relations. He had survived longer than the others, and was only dropped at the Party congress in July. He enjoyed special Soviet confidence.

Zdzislaw Grudzien, the former party chief in Silesia, who became very unpopular with the coal miners of the region.

These six arrests are clearly intended to enhance General Jaruzelski's credibility. He has previously said that no one would be protected or escape responsibility.

The ailing economy

Billions of debt and only Eastern block to help now

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Dec 13

The declaration of a state of emergency in Poland has placed the responsibility for curing the country of its economic crisis firmly on the Soviet Union and its partners behind the Iron Curtain.

Western Governments, which have consistently refused in recent months to guarantee new credits to the Poles, will feel that their prudence has been justified. Western banks, which have been anxiously waiting to see whether the Warsaw authorities would be able to pay around $500m (£260m) in interest and principal by the end of 1981 as part of an agreement rescheduling debts of $2,400m due this year will, if anything, be more confident of seeing their money again after the weekend's events.

But the move against Solidarity and the imposition of rule by a military council means that a relatively painless Western-style solution to Warsaw's economic problems is now virtually inconceivable.

As Poland's domestic economy has lurched from bad to worse over the past year, the economic planners in Warsaw have become increasingly willing to share their secrets with Poland's creditors in the West.

But if the exercise was intended to create a basis of confidence on which Poland would be able to borrow new funds to put its economic house in order, it has failed sadly.

The more Western creditors have got to know about the situation in Poland, the less they have liked it.

The West German Government is perhaps an extreme case of enthusiasm giving way to disenchantment. German attitudes have proved to be a crucially important barometer as West Germany is Poland's largest creditor in the West, and in 1980 advanced to being its second most important trading partner after the Soviet Union.

In less than two years, the West German Government has switched from pressuring the country's banks to lend Poland DM 1,200m (£300m) in an operation which many bankers disliked as being too risky, to steadfastly refusing to guarantee further loans to the Government in Warsaw.

Angry women: A "hunger march" in Lodz last August

In the eyes of many officials in Bonn the Poles have evolved from being a sympathetic people deserving the support of democrats in the West to a factor threatening the solidity of the federal budget.

The change in attitude became apparent in the summer as officials in Bonn realized that they would have to charge DM1,000m to the 1982 budget to offset the cost of the April agreement rescheduling the offcial part of Polish debt falling due this year.

From that point onwards, complaints in Bonn about the inefficiency of the Poles have grown more frequent just as a willingness to consider providing the country with new credit has diminished.

Yet when Poland finally realized that it would have to start rescheduling its $7,000m of hard currency debt in the spring of this year, the Warsaw Government's strategy for putting its own house in order presupposed that new money from the West would be forthcoming.

At that time some Western bankers estimated that Poland would need $10,000m of new money in 1981 alone while the country's gross financing requirement up to 1990 was estimated at $85,000m.

To expect an inflow of funds on this scale was perhaps unrealistic. But a successful rescheduling of Poland's 1981 debt could have created the conditions for a healthy trickle of finance from the West while waiting for cash from the International Monetary Fund in perhaps two years' time.

The state of emergency must put this prospect in doubt as banks and governments will be only too happy to use the turn of events as a pretext for not supplying more funds while still pressing for an orderly rescheduling of debts falling due in 1982 and beyond.

This attitude will probably be reinforced because of a relative decline in Poland's importance for the Western economies since the economic crisis began in that country.

☐ New York: A hardening of attitude among American bankers is expected as a result of martial law being declared in Poland over the weekend (Frank Lipsius writes).

Though Poland has just paid $500m in interest payments as part of its negotiated debt rescheduling, further deterioration in the political climate as a result of the call for a general strike may well lead bankers to find a way to have the Polish debt called in default.

Rescheduling of $2,500m of Polish debt is still to be fully negotiated, leaving an opening for bankers to declare a default or write off Polish loans, either of which will effectively cut off Polish sources of financing outside the Soviet Union.

Shortages and stoicism

By Dessa Trevisan

The Poles have little to lose in material terms; their day-to-day life is one long struggle to keep body and soul together. But they are still showing extraordinary patience, and seem prepared to go without most things people in the West take for granted, for the sake of the ideals of August, 1980.

Civic freedoms to them seem to matter more than bread, and in this respect they appear to differ from the consumer-conscious inhabitants of western European and their eastern neighbours like the Czechs and the East Germans.

After 1968 the Russians placated the Czechs and Slovaks by making more goods available to them. In Poland over this past year the situation in that respect got worse rather than better, as shortages piled up and item after item disappeared almost daily from the shops.

These ranged from the chronic food scarcities to the latest shortages of textiles, winter coats and boots, and even of salt and vinegar, the one product which with tea was until recently conspicuously available.

The queues in front of food shops have been normal for many years. But queues in front of furniture shops are new as people, in order to get rid of money, are buying everything whether they need it or not.

The food supply has not improved despite the promise held out when the authorities recognized the peasants' independent Rural Solidarity union.

The peasants were unable to supply more because industry lacked the necessary raw materials to supply them with farming essentials. Thus one shortage leads to another in a spiral which makes all talk about economic reform seem like academic speculation.

In Poland money has no value. This may be true of many countries in the throes of inflation, but in Poland the term simply does not seem adequate. To get the essentials of life the Poles have to have either goods to exchange or hard currency, the rate for which has now risen by more than 20 times.

The nation is thus divided into those who have either goods or hard currency to exchange for goods and those who have not. Those who have not are feeling hardships which Poles who remember the war say are worse than they faced in the 1940s.

The black market thrives despite General Jaruzelski's war on the profiteers and frequent raids by special military police units on the shops and markets where goods abound at a price.

ROW OVER REAGAN'S WAR CARD

From Niccholas Ashford
Washington, Dec 13

The code card which President Reagan carries with him to authenticate nuclear strike orders in the event of a military emergency was taken from him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after the assassination attempt on the President last March, causing *some confusion over exactly* who had control over America's nuclear weapons while the President was undergoing surgery.

According to a front-page report in the *Washington Post*, the loss of the card, which was taken as part of the evidence gathering after the shooting, led to a serious dispute over its possession between the FBI and the President's military aides.

The card is the only device carried by the President to authenticate his nuclear command. It contains a series of coded numbers and words with which he can identify himself to military officials in the war room at the Pentagon.

The card was designed for use in emergencies when the President might be without secure voice communication. The code and verification system is considered crucial to national security, as there would only be a few minutes to make nuclear decisions in a crisis.

The White House has refused to comment on the report except to say that at no time during the events of March 30 was the national security of the United States impaired. However, officials concede that although there was no loss of control over nuclear weapons after the assassination attempt, the incident does raise questions about how well the emergency system might have operated in a crisis.

In a military emergency, the code card would be used by the President in a conference call to Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary for Defence, the joint chiefs of staff and the Pentagon war room.

In the event of the incapacitation of the President, the authority to launch nuclear weapons passes through a chain of command that runs from the vice-President through the Defence Secretary to the joint chiefs of staff. Each of these officials carries his own card.

Caribbean HQ

Castries, St Lucia.—The new organization of Eastern Caribbean States has voted to station its headquarters in St Lucia and to admit the British dependencies of St Kitts and Monserrat as members.

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Zimbabwe to have party press

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Dec 13

The ruling Zanu(PF) party in Zimbabwe plans to establish newspapers and magazines to rival the national press, which was taken over by a Government-appointed trust earlier this year.

This was announced by Mr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Local Government, in an interview with the *Sunday Mail* newspaper here on his return from a visit to East Germany.

Mr Zvobgo, who was Zanu(PF) spokesman at the Lancaster House Conference, said he had asked the East Germans to provide the printing equipment.

This was necessary because the national press was "A den of reactionaries, counter-revolutionaries and some outright imperialist agents," the paper quoted Mr Zvobgo as saying.

When it was pointed out that Mr Farayi Munyuki, the editor of the *Herald*, is a member of Zanu(PF), and that Mr Willie Musarurwa, the editor of the *Sunday Mail*, is a veteran nationalist who was detained for years by the Smith administration, Mr Zvobgo said: "I don't want to say anything more controversial than I have said".

☐ Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, has urged blacks of rival tribes to follow the example of Zimbabwe's whites in achieving racial unity.

"Although the whites come from different countries in Europe, with different languages and backgrounds, cultures and traditions, they stand united under one common bond — their colour," Mr Mugabe told a provincial congress of his ruling Zanu (PF) party in Fort Victoria.

Mr Mugabe, whose party is based mainly on the majority Shona tribe, exhorted blacks to beware of the dangers of tribalism and regionalism. — AP.

Thailand to reprieve poppy fields

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Dec 13

Postponement of destruction by the Government of opium poppy fields in parts of the Golden Triangle area of north-west Thailand would increase international impatience with Thailand's reluctance to suppress opium production, foreign narcotic agents said here today.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, has ordered indefinite postponement, according to local officials in the Golden Triangle area. The postponment order, they said, was in response to appeals from hill tribe farmers, who regard the production of opium as essential to their well-being, and part of a local tradition.

After representations from the American Government, the Thai authorities had ecided to destroy poppy fields this month in 10 hamlets where the new crop is about a foot high. Harvesting of raw opium sap from the poppies will begin in February.

The 10 hamlets had been chosen because some farmers there have been growing coffee, maize, kidney beans and other food for up to eight years in a crop replacement programme financed by the Thai and foreign Governments.

Official toleration of poppy growing has now prompted some foreign supporters to have second thoughts about the programme.

"You banned opium 22 years ago, when are you going to stop growing it?" an American Embassy official recently asked Thai police officers. Opium is grown in more than 200 Thai villages.

The official explanation is that primitive farmers must be allowed to continue with their old crop until they learn about new ones. Fears that action against the farmers might drive them into the ranks of communist insurgents have also inhibited the authorities.

French opposition parties table censure motion

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 13

The Opposition yesterday tabled a motion of censure against the French Socialist Government for failing to prevent the deterioration of the country's economic situation during its first six months in office, and for its responsibility for the worsening of unemployment and inflation.

The motion tabled by M Claude Labbe, the chairman of the Gaullist parliamentary group, was also backed by the Giscardian UDF and is the third to be tabled by the Opposition since the change of government last May.

Although the vote on the motion of censure is bound to be lost because the Socialists have an absolute majority in the National Assembly, the decision to table it is part of the Opposition's deliberate strategy of keeping up relentless pressure on the Government and of delaying its legislative programme.

It is also designed to cash on on the growing discontent over Socialist policies among a widening cross-section of the population.

The motion says, for instance, that the Government's promise to the farmers that their standard of living would be maintained has not been kept. Farmers held violent demonstrations in different parts of France at the end of last week against the level of subsidies decided on for next year.

The motion also refers to the "climate of insecurity" created by the Government's excessive leniency towards law-breakers.

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The Polish crisis 2: How the world is reacting — and the confrontations that led to the showdown

Fingers crossed at Nato that Russians stay out

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 14

The first stage of a Nato precautionary plan to deal with a Polish crisis was set in motion here today by Dr Joseph Luns, the alliance's Secretary-General. He began a series of consultations with the permanent national representatives at Nato, to study the confused situation and prepare the way for a meeting tomorrow to work out an appropriate response.

For the moment, the Nato view is that events in Poland are self-contained, and there is no obvious intervention by the Soviet Union. This is the determining factor in the prepared Nato response, which was worked out over a year ago, after the initial crisis in Poland.

Exact details of that response are a closely guarded secret but it is certain that Nato would not counter any Soviet military intervention with a military build-up of its own.

What is more likely in the event of Soviet tanks invading Poland is sustained diplomatic pressure to discredit the Kremlin in the eyes of the rest of the world. The United States, for its part, would probably try to enforce comprehensive economic sanctions.

For the moment, however, the Nato tactic is to wait and see. Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has decided to do the same. He has postponed for 24 hours his plans for a six-day trip to Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and India, and is remaining in Brussels to keep in close touch with developments through the American embassy in Warsaw.

He is also close to Nato headquarters, and could be available if a sudden ministerial meeting were required.

Mr Haig said today that the United States "saw no signs" that the Soviet Union might be about to invade Poland, but he added that it was too early to tell what would happen. "We ar ewatching it very closely", he said. "We are consulting with our concerned allies here on the Continent, and we will continue to watch the situation."

Tomorrow's regular meeting of the Nato permanent representatives will be backed up this time by political directors. They will assess the situation, and hope that by then the confused stories coming from Poland will have become clearer, so that an adequate response can be approved. Mr Haig might attend this meeting.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Community, which opens in London in the evening, will also review the situation in pauses during their discussions about EEC reforms. Nato foreign ministers said a year ago that they would come to Brussels to plan their reactions to a Polish crisis should the situation warrant it.

At that time Warsaw Pact troop manoeuvres near the Polish borders seemed so threatening that Nato cancelled all Christmas leave, and put the multinational naval force on the alert. This time no such steps have been taken, and Nato operational headquarters has simply been advised to listen to the news.

Radio Free Europe, the American station which claims that its Polish language service has a 70 per cent audience among adults in Poland, increased its output from 19 to 24 hours a day when news of the Polish crisis became known. Since then all its news and current affairs output has been systematically jammed, in contrast to a year ago, when the station broadcast without any problems.

The European Commission will also be studying developments closely, to see if it is still advisable to complete a food and industrial aid programme requested by Poland. This was expected to be ready before the end of the year, but it is now unlikely to be finished before the situation becomes clearer.

An 8,000-tonne Christmas gift of beef from the Community to Poland is, however, probably still going to be sent, although it could now be delayed.

Walesa's oratory focused protests

By Richmard Davy and Dessa Trevisan

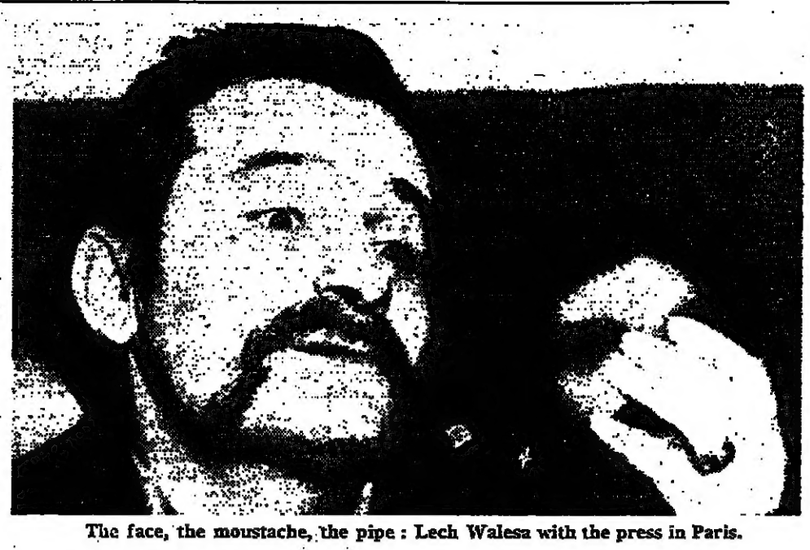
The origins of the Polish crisis can be traced as far back into Polish history as one wants, but the present phase developed in the second half of the 1970s, when the mistakes of Mr Gierek's regime started coming home to roost.

The crucial date is 1976, when strikes were put down by force. The result was to bring workers and intellectuals together in groups devoted to organizing pressure on the regime.

Ideas and information were exchanged through a flourishing unofficial press, so that when the strikes broke out in the Baltic ports in the summer of 1980 there wa sa network of contacts across the nation and widespread consensus on tactics.

Instead of taking to the streets and burning party buildings, or stripping party officials to their underpants, as happened on previous occasions, the workers stayed within within the factory or shipyard gates and organized themselves for negotiation.

The initial cause of the strike at Gdansk was the dismissal of Anna Walentylowicz, a worker for 30 years who had been involved in opposition activity, but a mass of pent up grievances accumulated around this issue, and the strike spread.



The face, the moustache, the pipe : Lech Walesa with the press in Paris.

It was at this early stage that an almost unknown, unemployed electrician named Lech Walesa climbed into shipyard and seized the confidence of the workers with his oratory.

By the end of August, 1980, to the astonishment of many concerned, the strike committee in Gdansk had negotiated and signed an agreement with the Government on a series of points including the setting up of an independent trade union, which then emerged as Solidarity, to be followed after more confrontations by Rural Solidarity.

Th right to strike was guaranteed, the minimum wage increased, and a series of welfare measures introduced. Hundreds of similar agreements were signed around the country.

Then began the long series of negotiations, confrontations and compromises which occupied the last 16 months. Mutual confidence waned and tempers became frayed as each side accused the other of bad faith.

Solidarity acquired 10 million members and sprouted many different factions, while the Communist Party's three million members became more and more demoalized and began to ift away, especially after the party congress last summer, which failed to achieve the promised reform of the party.

Then throughout last week, verbal warfare reached new heights. Statements by Solidarity leaders and angry government reaction all pointed to the rift getting ever wider. The chance of negotiations or agreement seemed more remote than at any time since the crisis started.

Each side made public statements to the effect that they were now moving to confrontation. Solidarity accused the authorities of breaking agreements, the Government said the same about Solidarity, accusing its leadership of preparing to take over political power, of undermining economic reforms.

The authorities were clearly preparing the groand for this weekend's events. They did everything to blame the Solidarity leadership and used the mass media to present that picture eto the Polish people. Tapes from a Solidarity meeting in Radom, claimed by the authorities to present incriminating evidence of political ambitions, were read over the radio three times in 24 hours.

Mr Walesa was then quoted as saying: "Confrontation is inevitable". Later, a spokesman for Solidarity, Mr Marker Brunne, in a statement claimed that the quotes had been taken out of context.

By the end of last week the Government had completed its massive campaign to prove that the Solidarity leadership was about to take over power. Prior to that, on Monday last, the Politburo had held a meeting on "the current political situation".

No further announcements were made, but most observers believe that the political decision to go ahead with martial law was taken then.

Throughout the week, efforts at conciliation were made as if the authorities still hoped for some last minute change of heart by Mr Walesa. He was the man they regarded as more moderate than some of the other national union leaders.

But Solidarity was in a beligerent mood, and Mr Walesa joined the radicals. Until then, he had never been attacked directly, but now the authorities singled him out for special criticism.

At this point, the Government clearly must have reached the conclusion that there was no hope of reaching a compromise. An announcement after a mid-week government meeting said: "It is hard to foresee the price of the political adventurism the leadership of Solidarity has opted for".

The Government then announced it would seek special parliamentary approval to ban strikes. But is said the emergency measures would apply only for the winter months until March 31.

Both Germanies will try to find a solution

From Patricia Clough, Berlin, Dec 13

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, discussed the situation in Poland at length with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, here today, and said they hoped the Poles would settle their conflicts themselves.

West Germany would adhere strictly to the principle of non-interference, Herr Schmidt said, and was convinced Herr Honecker also respected Poland's sovereignty. The talks delayed the Chancellor's schedule by nearly 45 minutes.

The news from Poland reached Herr Schmidt in the early hours of the last day of his three-day visit to East Germany. This visit had already been postpoied once because of the situation in Poland and once because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "Thank God it worked this time," the Chancellor remarked.

Herr Schmidt's senior advisers rejected suggestions that the events in Poland had come as a blow to the Chancellor in the middle of his talks with Herr Honecker. "On the contrary, the possibility to talk about it at length shows that the dialogue is continuing," they said. Both sides would try to use their influence to urge the Poles "in the right direction," they said.

In hindsight, it seemed that both sides had at least an inkling that something was going to happen in Poland. Informed sources said the two German leaders spent much of yesterday's meetings discussing the Polish question.

The almost unseemly haste with which the visit was arranged only three weeks after receiving the go-ahead from President Brezhnev indicated that at least one side feared a fresh East-West freeze which could delay the summit once again. East European sources here said that something had been expected to happen on or around December 17 when Solidarity was planning a general strike.

Herr Schmidt will almost certainly have pointed out to Herr Honecker—and through him to the whole Communist block—that any invasion of Poland would destroy in a single blow most of what had been achieved for detente and disarmament in Europe.

He has doubtless explained an invasion would harden public opinion in America and Europe, effectively wipe out the peace movement and put paid to the United States-Soviet negotiations in Geneva for reducing medium-range nuclear weapons.

Herr Schmidt may have reminded his host of his warning earlier this year that West German credits would dry up if the new development were put down by force.

The news from Poland over West German radio, quickly spread around East Germany. But the few East Germans contacted by Western correspondents here did not appear unduly perturbed. "We will have to see what happens," one East German remarked.

A woman who worked for the East German television said there was a great interest among intellectuals in the Polish experiment but they had been forbidden to discuss it on pain of their jobs. If Solidarity was crushed "it will show that the time is not yet ripe for anything like that here either."

Polish blood must not be shed, Pope says

By Our Foreign Staff

The Pope appealed to his countrymen for a peaceful outcome to the latest Polish move. "No more Polish blood must be shed", he said, after reciting the Angelus at noon with a crowd of about 30,000 assembled in St Peter's Square.

"I recall what I said in September: No more Polish blood must be shed, because enough has already been spilt, particularly in the last war. All efforts must be made to build our homeland in peace", he said, directly addressing groups of Polish pilgrims. "In view of the forthcoming 600th jubilee of the Madonna of Czestochowa, I intercede on behalf of Poland and all my fellow countrymen with her who has been given to the nation as its protection."

Brussels: Mr Alexander Haig said here that Poland had told Western diplomats that reforms would continue in Poland despite the government's crackdown on Solidarity.

The American Secretary of State told a press conference that the American Chargé d'Affaires in Warsaw had been assured by a senior Polish Foreign Office official that there would be no return to the pre-August, 1980, situation when the government agreed to accept big reforms under pressure from Solidarity.

Moscow: Moscow radio said that the action in Poland was taken in response to the "anarchy facing the country" and "extremist actions of Solidarity leaders who are trying to take over the country".

The broadcast said that "a decision had been adopted to intern the extremist leaders of Solidarity and also members of illegal anti-socialist organizations". The report was later repeated in the Russian language on Soviet radio.

Tass initially carried a one-sentence announcement from Warsaw shortly after 9 am Moscow time and ran an expanded account of the situation 90 minutes later.

Rome: Leaders of the Italian Communist Party condemned the military take-over in a tough statement that was certain to anger the Kremlin.

The directorate of West Europe's largest and most independant communist party met in emergency session yesterday and repeated its support for Solidarity.

Vienna: About 500 people, mainly Polish refugees, demonstrated outside a Polish church and the Polish embassy. There are officially some 26,000 Polish refugees in Austria who have applied for political asylum and about the same number are thought to be in the country privately.

Development in Poland have touched off a wave of protest. M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister said the French Government had no intention of doing anything. What was happening in Poland was an internal affair which must be settled by the Poles themselves.

Brussels: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the world's largest non-Communist trade union group, condemned the developments in Poland and called for the immediate release of the arrested officials of Solidarity.

Vienna: Czechoslovakia today became the first Soviet block country to welcome Poland's decision to introduce a state of emergency, saying the move demonstrated the effectiveness of the Polish state and party leadership.

Utrecht: A convoy of more than 150 lorries left here for Poland despite the state of siege there, to deliver more than 200,000 Christmas packages of supplies gathered by a private Dutch association.

How Moscow sees it, page 8

We confidently predict our whiskey will be received with enthusiasm by relatively few people.

Black Bush is a whiskey of rare distinction. It has an exceptionally full flavour and a smoothness of legendary proportions.

However, few people have had the good fortune to have made note of the marvellous impression Black Bush has on the palate.

The reason is not a complicated one. Quite simply, Black Bush has not been widely available. In fact, scarce might be a more appropriate word.

Hardly surprising then, that not everyone is fully aware of its mellow Irish character or its triple distillation process which adds to its special smoothness.

Fortunately, Black Bush is finding its way, slowly but surely, into more off-licences. Naturally, we're confident that our small number of enthusiasts will be joined by just a few more.

BLACK BUSH

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If only Mrs Thatcher could see my mailbag

Heartline
By PHILLIP HODSON, THE MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS
ALL I WANTED WAS A BOYFRIEND

Phillip Hodson: letters to an agony uncle

■ Once upon a time, Sir William Rees-Mogg on Sir Robin Day's television programme described Lord Matthews' newspaper *The Daily Star* as "disastrously worthless". I work on *The Star* as Fleet Street's only male agony columnist and my problem is how to cope with the never-ending volume of post from readers who think Sir William was talking through his top hat. They not only tell me they like the paper but that they value its every promise.

One of these is a haunting line published each Monday saying I will reply "on the page or by post" to all letters sent to my column. Since I joined the paper exactly a year ago, it is a pure coincidence that the circulation has increased by more than the entire print-run of *The Guardian*. With every additional copy, my potential constituency increases.

Now all agony columnists have two existential nightmares. The first is that no one will write to them. Mine is currently the second — that everyone who can write, will do so, to me, and all at the same time.

I open over 4,000 letters a month from the *Star* and from my LBC Radio phone-in programme compered by Mike Dicken. In 12 months, I have dealt with 3,000 letters on unemployment, 2,000 on intercourse without contraception and 1,500 on the poverty trap of single parenthood. In one week, I received 2,314 letters from men seeking treatment for impotence. A week later, I got 2,200 requests for a leaflet called "How to Find A Mate". In the ranks of the national letter-openers, I fall way behind royalty during nuptials but well ahead of many MPs if you discount routine circulars.

Many of my correspondents *should* be writing to their MPs or the Parliamentary Commssioner for Adminstration. I try to give them nerve. Others are bewildered by bureaucracy or even the telephone directory. Some are not literate. I am still proving unhelpful to the Tyneside gentleman who tells me upon reflection that his dilemma is a "deficiency of sodarity". But instead of dismissing his communication as "disastrously worthless", I recognize that both of us must try harder — especially me since I stayed at school until I was 26 while he mined coal.

Agony is not taught in the academy. The ideal training ground is clearly a decade or two as Deputy Delphic Oracle seconded to the Department of Health and Social Security. Who else could ultimately do justice to this morning's mixed postbag containing questions about suicide, redundancy, bereavement, battering, inter-racial marriage, mastectomy, incest, the manliness of boys' ballet-dancing and where to find a second-hand trombone in Dundee? I gave all the writers the benefit of my occasional doubts and replied courteously to every single one if only to prescribe eventual self-help.

Some correspondents are cruelly acute. "You're a man, you tell me why all men are hopeless", wrote one woman. Others send 59 sheets of family biography prefaced by: "This is not going to be a long letter . . ." and end with: "Is it reasonable for a girl to leave home at 37?" Traditional agonies endure: "Please can you tell me either to leave my husband and try it again with this other man or stay as I am living with a drunk who has beaten me for five years?" — but these are increasingly outnumbered by explicit sexual difficulties: "My husband and I are in our early 30s, have been married for 6½ years, no children and have made love only three times since we were married, and not at all over the last two years. What can you do?"

First, I can give my time, unlike the average GP who has only two minutes four seconds to hear the story of your marriage breakdown before prescribing valium. But second, as a man, I can try to explain from the inside why love, sex and marriage seem to threaten so many men at a time of the decline of the male-chauvinist empire. In effect, thousands of women write asking why their men oscillate in behaviour between being hectoring bullies and incommunicative mutes. I reply that a sad proportion of males rely on having a "defective" female beside them to bolster their notion of masculinity. The most graphic example was the chap who complained: "My wife is frigid and I want her fixed" only to recoil in horror and secondary impotence when after four weeks of sex therapy she became orgasmic and therefore "difficult".

Yet the problems of sex equality are still of lesser importance when set against the economic crisis in working families. My job is infinitely harder than when I started since Government preoccupation with macro-economic theory has accelerated the process of social upheaval. A swift glance at my mail shows that unemployment is no galvanic miracle electrifying the nation but simply breaks people's hearts. "I wake up in the morning and look forward to bedtime" is the message I get from too many readers, some of whom no longer care if they wake up at all.

Only a fragment of the population consists of resilient extroverts. The rest — often the shyest of teenagers — become apathetic zombies when deprived of hope, money and company. It is folly to blame Mrs Thatcher for all the unemployment in Britain but it may be her fault that those without jobs feel no sense of social purpose behind their sacrifice.

If the Prime Minister saw my postbag, she might read the mood of the country as Passchendaele not Dunkirk. Regarding the entrails, I predict more stress, alcoholism, battering, divorce and suicide — all of which increase public expenditure — as personal is added to social depression. "The problem is my husband and I, and two children, plus one grown-up son are living on £62.50 a week — I know you can't help but it is a mercy to have someone to listen to me . . ."

Another army of the night is being born to give politicians grief (and empty the Exchequer), this time to a host of teenage mums. In 1982, 10,000 girls under the age of 16 in England and Wales will get pregnant by having sex under conditions of strictest ignorance. It breaks *my* heart to listen to their amazed cries of "But I thought if you didn't go all the way . . . But my boyfriend said I could trust him!" Virgin birth and rascals are both all too common in modern Britain.

The Minister of Health says he is prepared to spend public *money* advertising the advantages of the word "NO" *as a contraceptive* but is nobly reluctant to campaign for formal sex instruction in British schools and on television where it would count. In the face of wholesale confusion among young people about the facts of life even today ("If I got VD I'd keep quiet and hope it went away" — 18-year-old sixth former), the politicians are merely making a rod for their own backs.

So long as we remain one of the few civilized democracies preferring compulsory religious instruction to compulsory sex education in our secondary schools, these family problems will remain and the agonists will go on picking up the pieces — even in distastrously worthless newspapers.

Does generosity have to come but once a year?

by Des Wilson

Apart from children and shareholders in stores, the people who most look forward to Christmas are charity fund-raisers, nearly 25 per cent of whose income is raised in just three weeks of the year. Even those people who for the other 49 weeks will brush aside collecting boxes with barely a glance can be counted on for a more charitable response at Christmas. Peace and goodwill to all men? Or is it the purchase of a licence to consume without guilt?

Whatever the motivation, no charity can afford to respond to gifts with cynicism, but some may at times be tempted to add to their thanks the words "Happy Christmas — but what about Boxing Day?"

The trouble with the "once a year" British approach to charity is that it denies the reality of the problems the charities face, namely that the disadvantaged they exist to help are there all the year round and that to carry out considerable programmes to relieve distress and to help the deprived to help themselves the organizations need *regular* income and they need to *know* that it is coming.

The answer may seem simple enough: by all means let's give generously at Christmas but while we're in the giving mood why not also commit ourselves to regular help throughout the year? Unfortunately it is not as simple as that because the same person who gives cheerfully to a charity at Christmas often spends the rest of the year advocating economic and political policies and adopting social attitudes guaranteed to ensure that the recipients of his or her "once a year" charity will still be there with the collecting box the following year.

I was reminded of this irony when I saw a man in the saloon bar of a local pub reach into his pocket and put 50p into a collecting tin for the mentally handicapped without interrupting the point he was making to friends — that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been ineffective in cutting back public expenditure and that people like him were "carrying too many people on my back". I had to be restrained from a desire to shake him and point out that the mentally handicapped to whom he had just carelessly tossed a few pence were some of those he was "carrying" and that public expenditure cuts had already reduced many local authorities' plans to improve facilities for them.

If there is to be change of attitudes it has to begin with greater public admission by charities of their limitations. Charities for the world's hungry and diseased have to make it clear that gifts to them, while welcome, mock the Third World if the donor opposes realistic overseas-aid programmes. Domestic charities for the disabled, the mentally ill and handicapped, the old and the homeless have to make it clear that they can help only a tiny fraction of those still being failed by the welfare state.

To be fair, the charities try, some being far more outspoken than others. But — and this is the crux of the matter — our attitudes to charity are actually built into the laws governing them and every time a charity speaks out about the real cause of its "client's" problems, whether it be inadequate legislation or inadequate public spending, it risks punitive action in terms of either a public reprimand by the Charity Commissioners, or at worse a loss of charitable status.

Over the past 20 years, as charities have come to feel less and less effective in the face of rising human need, they have attempted to do what the Charity Commissioners say they may not — "to influence, pressure or protest", and in particular, to "bring pressure on Government to procure a change in policies, practices, administration". Now they are being leaned on by the Commissioners to hold back. This restriction on charities is wrong for two reasons: first, because it stops them from adequately demonstrating their incapacity to meet the needs of those they care about and thus silences what should be an influential voice for a greater priority for those in need; second, because charities and voluntary organisations work on the ground, day by day, dealing with disadvantaged, they are the best educated on how existing "policies, practice and administration" are actually working out.

Nearly all of the social services in this country were pioneered by charities and volunteers. They have been a major force behind the creation of the best of the Welfare State, for spotlighting greater needs, and for arousing the public conscience. In order to fulfil this role they are now constantly having to challenge the law, if not work outside it. The Charity Commissioners, themselves admittedly also trapped with anachronistic laws, tend to implement them unevenly, coming down with a heavy hand on some and turning a blind eye to others. As the magazine *Voluntary Action* said recently: "Given that so many organizations engage in political activity, one might be forgiven for asking a straight question: why have many of them not been rebuked by the Charity Commission? Possibly because to do so would be to demonstrate conclusively that the charity law is not only being brought into daily disrepute, but it has itself become disreputable".

Charities are now being forced either to risk upsetting the Charity Commissioners and losing their status, or to indulge in all sorts of dodges, such as setting up limited companies working in partnership with charitable trusts, and "laundering" the money. It makes no sense. Charities should be able to shake the complacency of even their supporters by admitting the limitations on what they can do, and the complacency of the nation by demonstrating the inadequacies in social provision. This is an essential element of their work. If the law forbids it, then the law makes no sense. The best Christmas present we could give to charities is a promise to change it.

The author, founder-director of Shelter, is returning to full-time charity work.

Hunger strike details emerge

Sakharovs set out on the road to recovery

Moscow, Dec 13. — Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled Soviet dissident, and his wife appeared weak and shrunken after a 17-day hunger strike, but they have eagerly started on the road to recovery according to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, for whom they staged the protest.

"They looked very weak and very pale," said Miss Alexeyeva, who returned to Moscow today after visiting the Nobel Peace Prize winner and his wife Yelena in their hospital room in Gorkiy.

Miss Alexeyeva, aged 26, provided foreign reporters with fresh details of the hunger strike, which ended on Wednesday and won her the right to emigrate from the Soviet Union to join Dr Sakharov's stepson, who has married her by proxy. He is in the United States.

The strike appeared to have affected Mrs Sakharov more than Dr Sakharov, who suffers from a heart ailment, but she appears to be in better overall condition than he is, Miss Alexeyeva, said.

"They both have circles around their eyes, and their noses are sticking out. His teeth look blue, and both their faces look shrunken."

The Sakharovs were forcibly removed on December 4 from the flat where they lived in exile and taken to separate hospitals, where doctors threatened to force-feed them, Miss Alexeyeva said. "The doctors told Sakharov that Yelena was dying and Yelena that Sakharov was dying during the whole time."

"At one point, they showed Yelena the tube they would use to force-feed her and said, 'Look, we'll have to shove this down your throat if you don't start eating'."

Miss Alexeyeva and a family friend, Natalie Gesse, left Moscow by train early yesterday for Gorkiy and returned to Moscow on an overnight train. Dr Sakharov was exiled to Gorkiy 250 miles from Moscow, in January, 1980, after he criticized Soviet Military intervention in Afghanistan.

He and Mrs Sakharov began to fast on November 22 this year, vowing not to eat until the authorities allowed Miss Alexeyeva to leave the country to join her husband, Mr Alexei Semyonov, who is Mrs Sakharov's son by a previous marriage. Mr Semyonov, aged 25, is a graduate student at Brandeis University, near Boston.

Miss Alexeyeva said she expected her emigration papers tomorrow and would leave in a week or 10 days. She said she had not spoken by telephone with Mr Semyonov since the hunger strike ended.

Dr Sakharov lost 24lb and his wife lost 15lb during the strike, but they were in good spirits, Miss Alexeyeva said. They had not yet resumed a normal diet, but are drinking fruit juice and eating pieces of carrots and apples.

"When we first walked into their hospital room, Sakharov was taking his blood pressure. He ripped off the device when he saw us.

"Then Yelena ran in from the next room, threw her arms around us and said, 'We're so glad to see you'." Miss Gesse said. The two women were allowed to spend three hours with the Sakharovs in a guarded, two-room suite on the fourth floor of Semashko Hospital, where they are being held under false names.

Mrs Sakharov hopes to return to Moscow on Wednesday, she said, "but so far they are not allowed even to enter the corridor."

Iranian lawyer executed

By Our Foreign Staff

A prominent Iranian lawyer, Mr Muhammad Reza Khaksar, has been executed, according to a statement released at the weekend by the Paris office of the People's Mujahedin Organization.

It added that he had been imprisoned three times under the Shah's rule and had suffered years of imprisonment and torture.

Meanwhile, Mr Terry Waite, the special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, has admitted that he is facing difficulties in his attempt to secure the release of Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman detained in Iran without trial for 15 months.

Mr Waite who successfully obtained the freedom of three Anglican missionaries from Iran, was being interviewed on the BBC's religious programme *Sunday*.

□ Tehran: Iran will seriously consider an attack inside Iraqi territory if that country "persists in its attitude of insolent obstinacy", it was decided at a meeting of the Cabinet here Tehran radio reported—AFP.

Snowballs not missiles into the crowd at Güstrow from the two German leaders

FEW TANGIBLE RESULTS IN GERMAN TALKS

From Patricia Clough, East Berlin, Dec 13

The meeting between Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, has produced hardly any tangible results, despite the 15 hours of talks with Herr Honecker, the most intensive the Chancellor has had with another statesman. But the Chancellor insisted that during the course of next year, "it will be clearer that the talks have brought the solution to difficult problems much nearer".

Sealed off from the East German population like a dangerous baccilus, Herr Schmidt was shown round the Mecklenburg town of Güstrow today at the end of his three-day visit to East Germany.

Summing up his summit with Herr Honecker the Chancellor said that it added another piece of "Berechenbarkeit" — calculability — into East-West relations. What he meant by this, one of his favourite words, was the ability for Eastern and Western statesmen to know what the other is thinking, what his problems are and how he is likely to react to given situations.

West Germany's interest-free credit for East German trade, due to expire at the end of this year, has been extended for another six months pending negotiations on a new arrangement. Herr Honecker was also invited to visit West Germany

But the Chancellor clearly implied that Herr Honecker's visit, the credit and the settlement of other questions, would depend on East Germany relaxing the harsh currency regulations which have made it very expensive for many West Germans to visit relations in the East

He said West Germany could and would not change their laws which prevent them from recognizing East German nationality and from changing their respective representation into embassies, but there was room for movement. It was clear to both sides that there was a psychological element in many of these questions which could lead to the solution of many problems which were not directly linked to each other.

EEC attempt to agree vital reforms

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 13

EEC foreign ministers meet in London tomorrow afternoon to start an intensive but informal round of talks in an attempt to agree on vital reforms in the Community's agriculture policy and budget contribution scales.

This meeting was requested at the European summit meeting in London at the end of last month, when disagreement on four central issues made it impossible to draw up guidelines for a package of wide-ranging reforms.

In the intervening fortnight little has happened to indicate that the basic quarrels can be resolved. Britain is still determined to oppose special aids for small farmers which France insists must be given whatever the effects on milk production.

The Mediterranean countries are still demanding a better deal for their bulk crops like wine, olive oil, fruit and vegetables.

Britain and West Germany still want much tighter control on agricultural spending than the others will agree. Britain is still seeking a seven-year reduced budget contribution package, even though the most the other countries seem prepared to offer is a small three-year deal.

Nevertheless, there is a general feeling that some political initiative must be taken at the meeting to find solutions if the Community is not to run the risk of another damaging internal squable. Britain's tactics in the past have been to remain firm and so force its partners to improve their offer or to give way.

Two factors, however, suggest Britain might take a softer line on this occasion.

The first is that, as President of the Council, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is really obliged to seek consensus and he is aware that several countries, particularly France, are not prepared to give way at all this time.

The second reason is that on Wednesday Mrs Margaret Thatcher is due to become the first head of government to address the European Parliament as President of the Council. She is unlikely to relish having to report failure to the Parliament, especially if Britain is largely held responsible for the lack of agreement.

Another optimistic sign is that the meeting is on an informal level with each minister having only two officials to help him.

REBEL WAR LINKED TO PRETORIA

Maputo, Dec 13.— Mozambique says it has captured evidence that South Africa is involved in planning guerrilla warfare and sabotage in its territory.

The army seized the documentary evidence when it overran a guerrilla organization's main base at Caragua, near the Zimbabwe frontier, last Monday, the official Mozambican news agency AIM said.

The documents included minutes of meetings between Mr Afonso Dlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance guerrillas, and South African oficers, AIM said.

One concerned a meeting with a Colonel van Niekerk of South African military intelligence on October 25, last year.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

King holds talks on 'manifesto'

Madrid. — King Juan Carlos met for two hours at the weekend with Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the military situation in Spain following the recent "Manifesto of 100" (Harry Debelios writes).

The manifesto indicated sympathy among some members of the armed forces for officers indicted in connexion with the attempted coup of last February.

Although oficial sources called it a "normal working session" the meeting was unusual in that it did not form part of any regular periodic schedule, and — because certain ministers were not invited — it could not be considered a meeting of the National Defence Council.

The king was outside the country, on a formal visit to the Gulf States, when the manifesto was published on December 5, on the eve of national celebrations commemorating the third anniversary of the approval by the Spanish people of a democratic constitution.

King Carlos: Out of country

Saint's relics found by police

Venice. — Italian police have recovered the skeleton of Santa Lucia stolen from a church on the Venice Grand Canal in November and returned the bones to the Patriarch of Venice.

A flying squad patrol found the bones of the third century saint in a plastic sack in a hunting lodge near Venice. Immediately afterwards, police arrested Gianfranco Tiozzo, aged 28, at his home in Narcon, a mainland village nine miles north of Venice, in connexion with the theft.

Muldoon tries a newcomer

Wellington.—The surprise in Mr Robert Muldoon's Cabinet is the promotion of Mr Warren Cooper, Postmaster General in the last Cabinet, who is given the Foreign Affairs portfolio, taking over from Mr Brian Talboys, Mr Cooper, aged 48, has had little experience with foreign affairs or with overseas trade which become his principal responsibilities.

The other notable change is the switch from Health to Transport for Mr George Gair who has a reputation for cost cutting and administrative reform. The full list is:

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Muldoon; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Duncan Macintyre; Minister of State, David Thomson; Energy, William Birch; Labour, Jim Bolger; Transport, George Gair; Trade and Industry, Hugh Templeton; Foreign Affairs, Worren Cooper Attorney General, Jim Mclay; Works, Derek Quigley; Social Welfare, Ven Young; Internal Affairs, David Highet; Education, Merv Wellington; Maori Affairs and Police, Ben Couch; Health and Immigration, Anthony Malcolm; Broadcasting and Environment, Dr Ian Shearer; Tourism, Rob Talbot; Lands and Falloon Postmaster General, Elworthy.

Greenpeace leaves Mururoa

Paris — The ecologist group Greenpeace has withdrawn its protest boat from the waters round France's nuclear testing site at Mururoa in the South Pacific after an invitation from President Mitterrand for the crew to visit the atoll.

Egypt drops plot charges

Cairo.— Egypt's prosecutor general has dropped charges against Mr Abdel-Salam Zayyat the former deputy premier and 16 others accused of involvement in an anti-government plot said to have been inspired by Moscow.

The 17, among 1,600 people arrested by the late President Sadat last September are now expected to be released.

Kenya increases prices for farmers

Nairobi, Dec 13. — President Moi of Kenya has ordered the release of 2,173 short-term prisoners and announced increased prices for farmers (Charles Harrison writes).

Farmers will receive more for maize, wheat, cotton, rice and milk in an effort to stimulate higher production — a move designed to ensure that Kenya does not suffer again the shortages of local foods experienced last year.

هكذا من الأصل

Television

An act of faith

If the ways of God are mysterious then the ways of families are by no means an open book. Graham Greene's **The Potting Shed** snatches at both themes and was Yorkshire Television's choice last night to open its new series of *Celebrity Playhouse*, with Paul Scofield, Celia Johnson, Anna Massey and Maurice Denham to justify the series' title.

This is one of those Greene sorties which, I feel, almost needs an introduction about pre-Vatican II Catholicism before one can fairly comprehend its twists and turns. What happened to James Callifer in the potting shed was that he hanged himself after his rationalist father had stepped on the burgeoning beliefs inculcated by his uncle, a Catholic priest and therefore a pariah in this secular family.

Apparently dead, the boy is raised to life like Lazarus after his uncle has offered the bargain to God that he will surrender the most valuable thing he has — his faith — if the boy lives. God appears to have accepted. The priest continues to practise without faith, the father's professional disbelief is damaged, and the boy, left without memory of the event, is made a family outcast so that father can simulate his previous convictions without being discomfited by the sight of a walking miracle round the house.

We come to it when father is dying thirty years on. The family are gathered, minus priestly uncle and, they hope, the walking miracle, to ease him from the mortal coil. It is not to be so easy and the middle-aged miracle turns up to try to discover the secret of the potting shed and his ostracism.

It is a play full of angst that needs more than the usual effort to suspend disbelief, but it was admirably acted. Paul Scofield, who resists television for years at a time, moved from psychological turmoil to a sort of reasonable hope, with predictable ease.

Celia Johnson, as his mother, Anna Massey, as his former wife, and Maurice Denham as the priest temporarily diverted from the Holy Spirit to a more liquid variety, gave excellent support but the play, directed by David Cunliffe, remained strangely quaint.

McBride Reading Crime, by Bruce Crowther, was Granada's last offering in its *Knife Edge* series on Saturday Night. The end of this run of thriller plays will not leave any sense of deprivation. This play dealt with three university students, facing unemployment of course, who cook up a crime, fall into the hands of professionals and come to grief.

There was an idea here somewhere but it was bashed about between stereotype characters and forced dialogue. Wherever three students are gathered together these days one is leaning towards some kind of political extremism or other. A concommitant of this extremism appears to be a casual attitude towards copulation that makes love as unattractive as rifle drill and, frankly, I would be prepared to take it for granted rather than see it.

BBC1's Everyman last night, which devoted itself to the results of a poll by the European Values Group about what everyone thinks of this or that, was rather pipped at the post, the results having appeared at some length in the press.

This "biggest-ever" poll is still going on, gathering impetus like a snowball. The British appear to be more ready to fight for their country than most, well-inclined towards the Almighty, and disapproving about adultery. As polls do not carry — as well they might — a warning that acceptance can damage your judgment, those who this morning feel their stiff upper lips more firmly in place might consider that attitudes as reflected by such investigations are rather like front rooms used to be in the north of England, for visitors only. The real answers are often kept out of sight.

Dennis Hackett

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Symposium

Dramatic spirit that still lives

Of all Stanislavsky's disciples, Vsevolod Meyerhold was the most precocious and, in ways that have only recently come to light, the most influential. Charles Marowitz has just returned from the Meyerhold Symposium sponsored by Stockholm's Teater Schahrazad, the first celebration of this director's work outside the Soviet Union.

Although a protégé of Stanislavsky (he played Konstantin in the Moscow Arts production of *The Seagull*), Meyerhold set himself squarely against the master's cult of psychological realism and the Theatre of the Self-Evident. While Stanislavsky continued to mount Turgenev and Tolstoy, Meyerhold embraced Maeterlinck and the symbolists. A revolutionary in politics as well as art, he was actively involved in the Russian revolution — even imprisoned for some months — and, after the Bolsheviks took power, was put in charge of the theatrical department for the entire *Soviet Republic*.

For about three years, he was the most powerful man in the Russian theatre. His "constructivist" productions in the Twenties, his advocacy of Mayakovsky (he mounted the first Soviet play, Mayakovsky's *Mystery Bouffe*, in 1918) and his breathtaking reconstructions of classics such as Gogol's *Inspector-General* and Ostrovsky's *The Forest* made him a one-man aesthetic revolution in the Twenties and Thirties. But, with Lenin's death and the encroachment of Stalinism, his fortunes began to wane. At the Soviet Writers' Congress of 1934, at which Zhdanov proclaimed the line of Social Realism, Meyerhold's knell was already sounded.

Criticisms against him, both from Stalinist hard-liners and resentful rivals using the "new dispensation" as a way of settling old debts, began to appear on all sides. On June 13, 1939, Meyerhold was scheduled to speak at the All-Union Conference of Stage Directors where he was expected to admit "the error of his ways". According to one account, the recantation never took place and, instead, Meyerhold made a courageous defence of his life as an artist. According to later and more substantiated accounts, he finally bent the knee and performed an entirely uncharacteristic act of contrition. The facts remain inconclusive, despite recently uncovered "records" in the Soviet archives. What is indisputable is that he was arrested immediately after the conference and disappeared from view. The general consensus is that he died before a firing squad in 1940, although there are persistent accounts of him surviving in a labour camp until 1942 — even directing plays there in some weird augury of the *Marat/Sade*.

The central figure of the Stockholm symposium was Alexander Fevralsky, one of Meyerhold's assistants and theatre secretaries who is most responsible for having preserved the records of the director's work and ideas. In the now-familiar Soviet mode, Fevralsky, who looks somewhat like a cryptic Arthur Lowe, dutifully delineated the myth of "the great master" with anecdotes and reminiscences which were curiously flavourless; respectful without being reverent but, as it were, only putting a gloss on what is already known about the man. He was not to be drawn on political matters and was clearly there only as the offical custodian of the legend.

The multitudinous commentary on the director from a variety of academic sources paled by contrast with the appearance of Meyerhold himself in Protozanov's 1928 film *The White Eagle*, where the master of the Anti-Naturalistic was paired with Kochalov, one of Stanislavsky's leading Moscow Arts actors. If it was a contest between the Psychological and Theatricalist schools of acting (which it was not), the mugging, mannered, thoroughly outrageous Meyerhold won hands down.

Meyerhold after the Revolution: the power of Russian theatre

The arcane mysteries of bio-mechanics, Meyerhold's elaborate physical training technique, were heavily discussed — most lucidly perhaps by Mel Gordon and Alma Law of New York, who have done much practically to reconstruct the theories of the Twenties. Swedish-based companies such as Earth Circus and the sponsoring Teater Schahrazad showed the Meyerhold influence to be bristlingly alive; the former in exercises which grew out of the work of The Living Theatre and the latter in a panoramic collage of Meyerhold's life entitled *Doctor Dappertutto* (which was the director's early nom-de-plume).

One of the most riveting expositions came from England's Nick Worrall who vividly evoked Meyerhold's mise-en-scène for *The Inspector-General*, making the kind of cross-connexions between theory and practice that prove just how much the theatre sometimes owes to the academic intelligence. But, for the most part, there was a lot of historical and biographical rehashing from men whose admiration of Meyerhold's achievement was in no way enlivened by a similarly original cast of mind.

Meyerhold was officially rehabilitated in 1955 but, given the ambivalence that attaches to Soviet resuscitations, he remained obscure for another fifteen years — lovingly researched and rhapsodized on by a handful of scholars and directors in the West. But his influence still pervades Russia and was most noticeable in Robert Sturua's *Richard III* with the Rusthaveli Company of Georgia, seen in Edinburgh and then at the Round House in London. For an influence closer to home, there is no need to look further than Brook's gymnastic, white-walled *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Clearly, if ours is a theatre that applauds Brecht and Grotowsky, the experiments of Peter Brook in Paris and Peter Weiss in Berlin, the kinetic vitality of companies such as La Mama and The Living Theatre, then Meyerhold must wedge his way into the syllabuses of universities and drama schools. For by his insistence that the theatre must be a showplace for meaningful physicality, for refreshed and restructured classics, and for new plays which reflect contemporary ideas not stultified in conventional forms, Meyerhold is the rampaging spirit of the twentieth century — much more so than his mentor Stanislavsky or any of the self-styled Method disciples who invoke his name. The spirit of Meyerhold, and it certainly pervaded the four crowded days of that breathless symposium, is more a zeitgeist than a poltergeist; it is more the prevailing spirit of the present than a lot of murky rumblings from the past.

Theatre

Fight between equals

True West

Cottesloe

"So they take off after each other straight into an endless black prairie. . . . And the one who's chasin' doesn't know where the other one is taking him. And the one who's being chased doesn't know where he's going." And the same goes for the kind of play Sam Shepard used to write, saturated in the romance of the American West, and as lacking in any sense of destination as a drop-out hitchhiker.

True West, which strikes me as Shepard's best work since *The Tooth of Crime*, is not like that. It is rich in his own vein of New Frontier poetry, the ghostly presence of a heroic past slumbering behind the tidy Californian suburbs and throughway motels, but it also holds the stage as a robustly plotted piece of naturalism. Firmly though he put the boot into Hollywood in *Angel City* and again in this play, it seems that the place taught him something about story-telling.

Take the opening chunk of synopsis. It evokes the forces at work under the domestic surface; it is offered as the kind of garbage the lunatic studios might snap up; and it tells you something about the future of the two main characters.

They are brothers, reflecting two sides of Shepard himself; Austin a middle-class screen-writer, and Lee a wild vagabond who lives in the desert scratching an existence out of dog-fighting and petty crime. Coming together after years apart, they are first seen jockeying for status on the neutral territory of their mother's house.

On one side, the timid conformist with a flourishing career, on the other the self-reliant outcast with nothing in the world. The first round goes to Austin when he wearily hands over the car keys to get Lee out of the house for a vital meeting with his producer.

In the second round Lee comes storming back in mid-conference with a stolen television set, and bulldozes the producer into a dawn golf date at which he knocks his brother out of the ring by selling an idea of his own at the expense of Austin's cherished script.

Austin swiftly takes revenge by refusing to collaborate, leaving his illiterate rival to confront the typewriter alone for a long night's writer's block, first tearing ribbon out of the machine in handfulls and finally dismembering it with a stuffio golf club.

The venemously comic reversal is completed with Austin's return to make breakfast with a large consignment of stolen toasters. Each brother envies the other; and with the unexpected arrival of the mother they move in, as Ned Chaillet said of the New York production, for a "primal contest of dominance".

Each phase of the comedy is beautifully prepared and overflowing with unexpected invention. John Schlesinger's production precisely locates the action in a seemingly realistic environment where anything can happen, and where Grant Hick's cluttered living room looks out on a limitless void. The show is the occasion for a major gladiatorial comic encounter between Bob Hoskins and Antony Sher.

Until half time it seems to be a walkover for the sun-blackened space-filling Hoskins, who dominates the stage no less in enraged literary frustration than in plunging his brother into writhing embarrassment and fear of his life. But with the collapse of his hopes, and a bottle of whisky, a new Sher emerges, a vicious, hilariously funny saboteur every bit as lethal as his villainous opponent. You cannot say he exceeds Hoskins in sheer danger, but it is a fight between equals.

Irving Wardle

Lady in the Dark

Nottingham

Lady in the Dark is a legend of its own time. It brought Moss Hart together with Ira Gerswin and Kurt Weill to tell a musical story of psychoanalysis in the glamorous world of fashion magazines. It gave Gertrude Lawrence a great personal success during the Second World War and made the names of Victor Mature and Danny Kaye. It was never *professionally performed in* England.

Its most legendary moment was the rattling off of a string of names of Russian composers by the young Danny Kaye in the song called "Tchaikowsky", which has become a competition song for fast-tongued singers. Mr Kaye still holds the record, bettering his speed every year in gratitude to the sylables that made him a star. Crispin Thomas's production at the Nottingham Playhouse confronts that legend by near total surrender.

The names are pronounced, but without haste, and there is no risk that the song might steal the limelight from the star, as nearly happened with Gertrude Lawrence. Celeste Holm, in her British debut, is allowed to walk into the classic song which follows, "The Saga of Jenny", and softly sing that "in 27 languages she couldn't say no", but Miss Holm's justified personal legend has already been sabotaged by an inadequate microphone which rustles and echoes and fails to amplify clearly until the very last song, "My Ship", when suddenly she is audible and entracing.

She has been chasing the words and the chords of that song on the psychiatrist's couch since the beginning of the show and finding them is a neat dramatic (and romantic) demonstration of the success of her analysis. The poor amplification, of a voice which now needs electrical assistance, could make it seem as if she was seeking an efficient sound man.

Pieces were falling off Hugh Durrant's elegant setting all evening and technically the show had one of those nights that make actors cringe years after the event. The pity is that such things do distract and disrupt the clever, economical development of the story, reaching back to the childhood experiences which block a full emotional life for Miss Holm's character.

Weill's music, despite its astringent lines, has a lush seductiveness that develops a tension perfectly suited to Hart's blend of a nervous breakdown and romance. There are three love stories that Miss Holm must play and there the casting lets her down.

The show comes more to life when it is left to the women on Miss Holm's fashion magazine, with a performance by Cristina Avery which is solid brass.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

Melodic intensity

Stern/Wolf

Festival Hall

Bartokians should rejoice that the master's Violin Sonata No 1 is now firmly placed in the repertoire after suffering step-child status for several decades. It made a splendid centrepiece to Isaac Stern's recital. His interpretation was interesting and somewhat unexpected, for he approached the work via Bartok's Austro-German antecedents rather than as an essay in the modernism of its time (1921) or in the use of folk materials.

The effect of this was to smooth the music's corners and intensify its melodic flow in a way reminiscent of some of Bartok's own recorded performances of his works. At the same time such things as the initial rhythmic complexities of the Finale were beautifully precise, as were the shaping and direction of the Adagio's high, free, melodic rhapsodising. Andrew Wolf gave a commanding account of Bartok's terror of a keyboard part.

Especially in its first movement, Brahms's Sonata, Op 78, has an intimate stance, and Mr Stern's rather circumspect opening suggested the right atmosphere. But his tone was less full than in former times, *although*, in fruitful partnership with Mr Wolf again, the music's later intensifications were effortlessly achieved. However, the autumnal mellowness Brahms evidently had in mind was sketched rather than made fully explicit.

In the slow movement again Mr Stern's tone did not show the variety of colour of former years. Yet the accumulated wisdom of those years became evident in the refined inflexions which sought out the music's hidden meanings. The speculative calm achieved in this Adagio's final pages was, indeed, absolutely exceptional. The finale was less remarkable, although its rippling, wayward pulsations were delicious in themselves.

Written just seven years after the Brahms, in 1886, Franck's Violin Sonata alternates calm and fury, sometimes combining them. This performance, however, had throughout, even in the second movement's explosive start, a poise only sometimes achieved in the preceeding works. The chief vehicles of this were a firm projection of the music's long lines and a gentle, probably not wholly conscious, emphasis on the relationships between the various themes. Again Mr Wolf excelled in a demanding piano part.

Max Harrison

Sheba Sound

Wigmore Hall

"Fair blows the wind for France", they called their programme; but it took the encore to persuade us of the cordiality of the entente between the French and English baroque and contemporary music presented by the Sheba Sound. Gordon Langford's artful arrangements for this group of two oboes, bassoon and harpsichord of Daquin's *Le Coucou* (bassoon as wandering voice) was one of the most engaging pieces in an ostensibly imaginative but ultimately tedious and undernourishing programme.

It is not that the group lack enterprise: they had commissioned three new works. Nor is it that they lack artistry: their playing was vivid and well blended, their spoken commentaries were terse and to the point. But too much of their music was either of the sort that gives more pleasure to the performer than to the listener, or of very limited curiosity value.

If some Rameau harpsichord variations and a trio sonata by Arne fell into the first category, then the lugubrious formula writing of Etienne Ozi's Andante and Rondo for bassoon was the apotheosis of the latter. The first London performance of Jonathan Harvey's *Modernski Music* revealed it as a cunningly inventive fantasy-rondo on Harvey and Bach, witty, vital, but inconsequential. Across the Channel, his older contemporary, Jean-Michel Damase (discovered by Colette, taught by Cortot) was, for the while, entertaining in an elegantly nostalgic *Suite pour Quatre*, faultlessly crafted, yet to the memory of Les Six only as Pernod is to absinthe.

The high point of the evening was Elizabeth Maconchy's *Trittico*, the motor energy, here neo-Stravinskian, there neo-baroque, of its outer two movements constantly generating fresh idea and purpose and framing an exquisitely imagined, tenderly affective modal lullaby. It was one of the few pieces to exploit imaginatively the full expressive potential of this particular combination of instruments. This, and the French wine generously offered to everyone afterwards, was some reward for braving the snow and the rest of the programme.

Hilary Finch

Opera

Il trovatore

Covent Garden

Dame Joan Sutherland has recorded Verdi's *Il trovatore*, but not until now sung Leonora on stage here. For her welcome return to the opera house whence she set off round the world the Royal Opera had assembled a distinguished cast round her, likewise mostly singing their roles here for the first-time. Elena Obraztsova indeed, so familiar and eminent a singer on records and television, was actually making her Covent Garden debut.

Visconti's production was a distinguished achievement 17 years ago, and several of Sanjust's sets still look handsome and striking, notably those in the gypsy encampment and beneath the walls of Castellor, though the original colour schemes have vanished with the advent of new costumes brought by their wearers. The Visconti style is but faintly and seldom discernible.

The Leonora of *Travatore* is a stately, passive heroine, doomed to suffer throughout. Sutherland plays her so and sings her music accurately, with some nobility, and clearer Italian words than was her wont, but with less brilliance and less pathos than I expected. The voice has become darker in timbre, the chest notes clear but not strong; as fine and eloquent as anything in her performance was the moulding of the long, tense, climbing phrase which launches the final ensemble, "Prima che d'altri vivere". At two places in the music, she sang alternative, less familiar versions, and the cadenza of "Tacea la notte", apt and beautiful, was not as printed in the score, though perhaps associated with a famous past exponent — her husband, Richard Bonynge, who conducted, is a keen collector of such historical variants.

Mazurok and Sutherland, heroic and eloquent

Obraztsova is a properly dynamic and affecting Azucena. She lives every phrase she sings; I happen to detest the metallic, unsteady sound of her incisive voice, except in soft music, such as the remembered cry of "Mi vendica!"

The melodious invention, for which *Trovatore* is particularly loved, and the strong drama were well served by the principal men. Franco Bonisolli has the presence for a handsome Manrico, and the spirit for his music, as well as the vocal expertise and sensibility: "Ah si, ben mio" was loving, but not sentimental, "Di quella pira" splendidly heroic.

A highpoint of the evening was the abduction ensemble outside the convent, "E deggio e posso crederlo", both spacious and excitable, with Yuri Masurok to partner Sutherland and Bonisolli. This Luna is a light but truly heroic baritone, personable, with a hint of the rake as well as the popular leader. "Il balen" and its concluding section with chorus were superbly sung.

John Tomlinson gave us a determined, ardent Ferrando, not completely at ease in the important first scene, because Bonynge seemed to be conducting a different account of the scene, his own, not Tomlinson's. There were several faults of ensemble, and several tempi which appeared not to suit his singers. In the scene outside Castellor he found a common factor with cast and chorus, and with the orchestra too. That rapport should have been apparent throughout: let us hope it will improve in later performances.

William Mann

The Marriage

Collegiate Theatre

"A completely improbable occurrence" is the subtitle of Gogol's prose comedy *The Marriage*, about the abortive bullying of a bachelor to join the ranks of the married. And improbable it was too, at the time, this virtually plotless parody of love and of comedy. When Mussorgsky set just one act about 30 years later his contemporaries thought experimentalism had gone too far; to stage this will-o'-the-wisp seemed the crowning improbability.

It has, of course, an inbuilt advantage in leaving one hungry for more; but the success of its British première by Nexus Opera and Divertimenti lay in the vital fusion of idea, musical realization and dramatic recreation. In his "experiment in dramatic music in prose" Mussorgsky creates an astonishingly fresh and flexible musical reproduction of everyday speech and of Gogol's tellingly fragmented sentences, his shifting intonations and inflexions nicely caught in Stephen Oliver's effortlessly articulated translation.

As the music draws out the little idiosyncrasies of Gogol's characters without ever caricaturing, Ronald Eyre's direction, in its deft timing, its spare and witty use of business, drew from each actor a portrayal as speedy, economic and purposeful as the best cartoon line. As the bachelor Podkolyosin Richard Suart was facially and vocally supple to every passing temptation, and stubbornly resistant to the matchmaking of Fyolka (Anne-Marie Owens), the urging of friend Kochkaryov (Michael Bulman) and the gaucheness of servant Stepan (Richard Wigmore).

Every note was elegantly and imaginatively touched in by Lionel Friend's direction of Divertimenti's stylish playing of Oliver Knussen and Colin Matthews's orchestration of the short score — true Mussorgsky, gently tempered with their own fancy. Held together visually in David Blight's cosily realistic set, as compact and detailed as the score, the performance revealed one strong answer, in 1868 and in 40 minutes, to many of the questions still plaguing contemporary music-dramatists.

Hilary Finch

New music

West Square Electronics

St John's

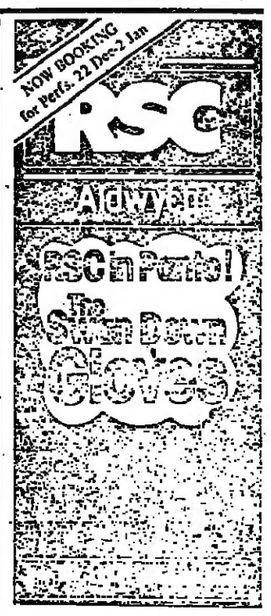
As at their St John's concert last month, the West Square Electronic Music Ensemble kicked off on Saturday night with a version of Stockhausen's *Solo* for melody instrument and feedback. It was, in fact, the première of a new realization for trombone, with James Fulkerson as soloist. The opening phrases were somewhat lugubrious and they were soon picked up by the feedback system and recycled through the loudspeakers. The effect was frankly of several lugubrious trombones, yet they made unpredictable, free-ranging counterpoint together.

Tristram Cary's *I Am Here* for soprano and four-channel tape was the longest but also the most imaginative piece. Jane Manning sang and gasped a text by Peter Zinovieff that was modified in a great variety of ways on tape, and to real dramatic purpose, for there is a true dialogue between the live performers' contributions and what emerges from the loudspeakers. There is, indeed, a considerable theatrical element, with gesticulations and other movements by the singer, and some lighting effects. The piece is at a constant high pitch of excitement and hence quite wearing; but it absorbed one's attention throughout.

In Barry Anderson's *Sound the Trucket Sonance*, Mr Fulkerson was sometimes overwhelmed by the rather industrial noises from the loudspeakers in the four corners of St John's.

Robert Saxton's Cantata No 3, another first performance, was unusual and interesting. A male recorded voice intermittently read a text by Richard Gaskell accompanied by vocal ululations by two sopranos (Lynda Richardson and Miss Manning). To this discreet electronic sounds were added, these including a replaying of some of the sopranos' music. The work grew mildly agitated, the voices being multiplied up to a sudden ending.

Max Harrison



Poland: will the general's gamble keep the Russians out?

General Jaruzelski and Mr Brezhnev: the time for promises is past

by Michael Binyon

President Brezhnev declared almost a year ago that the Russians would not abandon Poland in its "hour of need." And Moscow will now give clear political, economic and, if necessary, military backing to General Wojciech Jaruzelski for taking the steps the Soviet leaders have been calling for in public and private with increasing urgency.

For the Russians, Poland's "hour of need" is only minutes away from disaster. for more than a year they have been watching the gradual political and economic collapse of Poland with undisguised alarm. The Soviet press has given public warnings that the country was in the grip of counter-revolution. Ideologists have pointed to the weakening of the communist party's authority, economists have spoken of anarchy and chaos caused by strikes, Russian nationalists have fumed at the rising anti-Soviet feeling in the country.

The Soviet Union saw Poland sliding inexorably into disaster. But the Russians have been almost powerless to oppose and crush the forces that presented Moscow with its greatest political challenge since the Second World War. They have tried almost everything: on the one hand, threats, cajolery and blackmail; on the other, economic aid, understanding, accommodation and restraint. Nothing has worked. Until yesterday the Poles had not "turned the course of events" as they promised the Soviet leadership in February. They had not reasserted the supremacy of the party, brought Solidarity to heel and enforced social and economic discipline.

The consequences were extremely serious. Had the Solidarity call for a national referendum on the fitness of the communists to govern been carried through, had government concessions gone any further and had the Polish quest for "renewal" become a repudiation of its whole post-war history, the Soviet Union's position in Eastern Europe would have been irrecoverable. The Soviet leadership, which deliberately threatened such dire consequences, would have been shown up as an ageing, toothless and impotent bear.

Workers in other countries with similar problems, such as in Romania, might have drawn inspiration from the Polish example. Moscow's control over its strategic East European buffer zone would have been fatally weakened. As the Russians have frequently stated, the socialist community is inseparable. Having insisted that the defence of the communist system and ideology is the duty of every communist state, the Russians cannot allow a challenge to go unchecked indefinitely.

But Poland placed the Soviet Union in an insoluble dilemma. The old and time-tested solution, military invasion, could be used only at a suicidal risk to equally vital Soviet interests. In the wake of Afghanistan, the Russians know that whatever hopes they still entertain of maintaining an island of détente in western Europe would be shattered. The West, which has had plenty of time after at least four near-invasions to coordinate its response, has made it clear to the Russians that East-West trade would be brought to a standstill for long enough to damage the already weak and deteriorating Soviet economy. Most important, the vital arms negotiations which have only now resumed after the Americans' refusal to ratify the Salt agreement, would be brought to an abrupt halt. The arms race would be on again in earnest.

The Soviet solution inasmuch as Moscow had one, has always been, therefore, to force the Polish leadership to take action to restore the situation. Pressure on the leadership to do so has been exerted constantly and in all manner of ways: press reports, private warnings by visiting Soviet politburo members such as Mr Mikhail Suslov, Mr Andrei Gromyko and Mr Victor Grishin, meetings with Polish leaders in Moscow, sharply-worded letters to the Polish communist party from the Soviet party's central committee, military manoeuvres in and around Poland, public campaigns whipping up anti-Polish feeling in factories across the Soviet Union, covert and overt attempts to influence elections and meetings within Poland.

But now that General Jaruzelski has taken some of the steps Moscow has been calling for, particularly the detention of Solidarity militants and the clampdown on the press, the Soviet leaders may believe their pressure has paid off — for a while. The Polish leaders, however will have to follow the draconian measures with long-term reinforcement of state and party authority. The Soviet leadership has become distrustful of Polish promises: Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, whose policy of compromise so clearly failed in Moscow's view, is an ever present reproach to those Soviet leaders who initially cautioned patience and moderation in the teeth of what appears to have been strong pressure for a sharp and swift response 18 months ago.

Will a sharp response from Moscow now be needed? Soviet reporting of the Polish crisis in the past week did not hint that the breaking point had been reached, though on Friday Tass significantly attacked the Roman Catholic church, a body which the Russians seemed to have regarded earlier as a stabilizing factor. But as one western diplomat remarked some months ago, "If you're going to invade, you don't advertise it in *Pravda*."

All depends on the response from the Polish people. If a general strike paralyses Poland and the situation looks like getting out of hand, critically weakening Poland's reliability as a military ally in the Warsaw Pact — always a main Soviet concern — it is difficult to see how the Russians can hold back any longer while retaining credibility at home, in Eastern Europe and in the West (for the Soviet leadership has no intention of letting the West believe Moscow can countenance a flouting of its vital interests).

But if Poland's emergency measures can satisfy some of the minimum demands of the Brezhnev doctrine, then General Jaruzelski may have spared his nation a Soviet physical intervention — the last thing anyone wants in Warsaw, Moscow, Washington or anywhere else.

The man who spreads the Tony Benn gospel in Scotland

George Galloway: irritating the party moderates

While Mr. Foot and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee attempt to grasp the nettle of the Militant Tendency, a separate but equally significant struggle continues for control of the party's traditional and vital powerbase of Scotland.

Labour cannot do without Scotland, where it holds 42 of the 71 parliamentary seats. The tally was 44 until Mr Robert McLennan and Dr Dickson Mabon defected to the Social Democrats.

The party's broad left, which essentially means supporters of Mr Tony Benn, has narrow but effective control of Labour's Scottish executive committee, and has recently been using that forum to promote Mr Benn and Bennite policies, to the occasional irritation and annoyance of Mr Foot and the NEC.

The Scottish executive is a curious body, with no real policy making powers but considerable influence as a pressure group within the party, particularly on Scottish issues. Its powers were beefed up in 1976 in expectation of the establishment of a Scottish Assembly, and those powers of policy making on certain domestic issues are still technically in existence, although in fact it can do little but put up suggestions to the NEC in London.

Fifteen of the executive's 29 seats are now occupied by left-wingers, including the current chairman, Mr George Galloway, a charismatic 27-year-old with a well-used face that looks nearer 40; Mr Galloway is the party's full-time organizer in Dundee, and is therefore technically an employee of the NEC in London. That has in no way inhibited him from promulgating policies and statements which run directly counter to official party thinking.

At the Scottish party's annual conference last year, left-wingers suceeded with their motion that Britain should withdraw from Nato, a suggestion which runs counter to national conference policy. Recently, the Galloway faction attempted to have the anti-Nato line included in one of the three party political broadcasts that are made each year specifically for Scotland. The issue drew blood between Mr Galloway and Mrs Helen Liddell, the party's Scottish secretary and a moderate, who has responsibility for the broadcasts.

In the event Mrs Liddell won the day, and the Nato issue was not aired. But the left make little secret of their desire to remove Mrs Liddell and Mr James Allison, the Scottish organizer, both employees of the NEC, and replace them with officials more kindly disposed towards the left. Such a move would give Mr Galloway and his followers wide and valuable access to the party's information and organization at the Glasgow headquarters in Keir Hardie House.

Mr Galloway was on the offensive again when the party leader visited Glasgow last month. Mr Foot briefly attended a meeting of the Scottish executive, then sought more uplifting entertainment from a football match at Ibrox Park. In his absence the executive carried a motion condemning him for not supporting Mr Benn; moderates on the committee who objected to the resolution managed only to get Mr Foot's name removed from it, but the sting remained.

Still Mr Galloway continues to irritate. His latest excess, in the eyes of party moderates, was to give an interview to the Communist journal *Scottish Marxist* in which he suggested that the Communist Party should be allowed to affiliate to the Labour Party, in the same way that a body like the Fabian Society does. He argued that there was an intellectual vacuum in theoretical party thinking, which was in danger of being filled by Trotskyites and which would be much better filled by Communists. Mr Galloway is in trouble with the NEC again.

The Bennites' zeal in taking control of the Scottish party executive has not so far been matched in the constituencies, where left-wing challenges to sitting MPs during the recent round of reselection have been sparse: apart from the William Hamilton reselection replay in Central Fife yesterday, the only other serious left-wing challenge comes on Friday, when Mr Ian Campbell faces reselection for his seat in Dumbartonshire West, which he holds with a 6,457 majority. The left's candidate is Mr Leo Crawley, an official of the usually right-wing electricians' union. He is regarded as having a strong chance because of what the local party regards as a lacklustre performance as an MP by Mr Campbell.

The left's failure to mount a major assault on sitting MPs stems partly from insufficient support in many constituencies, despite their claims to be strongly represented everywhere in Scotland.

But the decision is chiefly tactical, in order to present a united Labour front to face down the challenge of the SDP. It is significant that Mr Hugh Wyper, the Communist Scottish secretary of the TGWU, has instructed all candidates on the union's parliamentary panel not to oppose sitting Labour MPs. But there will be other chances for the left before long; more Labour MPs are likely to defect to the SDP, creating vacancies, and proposed boundary changes in Scotland may create several new seats.

Nevertheless the internal rowing within the Scottish party has already inflicted considerable damage, and has done nothing to stem the advancing Social Democrat tide. The latest Scottish opinion poll, published in the *Glasgow Herald* immediately after the Crosby by-election, showed that Labour's commanding lead north of the border had fallen in two months from 52 to 40 per cent, while SDP support had risen from 16 to 27 per cent in the same time. The Tories and Scottish Nationalists trailed far behind, at 15 and 17 per cent respectively.

For all the left's success within the party, and the strong Scottish support for Mr Benn in the deputy leadership election, the Scottish Labour MPs remain an overwhelmingly moderate body.

The majority of Scots MPs view Mr Galloway's control of the executive with distaste, and were furious at his suggestion that Communists should affiliate. Mr George Robertson, the moderate member for Hamilton, told me: "The party was revitalized to meet the Scottish Nationalist challenge. After the referendum collapse, and the demolition of the SNP at the 1979 election, there was a vacuum in the party. The left slid into the vacuum, and turned the propaganda machine round. They have a temporary tactical advantage."

Mr Galloway's plans are far from temporary. The left want much more autonomy for the party in Scotland, and the Scottish executive's proposals for its own devolution are currently being studied by an NEC working party. They argue, with justification, that many government departments and powers are already devolved in Scotland. One of their main concerns is to take a much tougher line on banning council house sales, Scotland having a much higher ratio of council to private housing than the rest of the United Kingdom.

The left also continue to press for a Scottish Assembly; the establishment of such a body would naturally give the Scottish executive of the party much greater power within its own domain.

Moderates within the party are currently scheming to wrest back control of the executive at the annual conference next spring, when Mr Galloway's term as chairman expires. His own nominee as his successor will be Mr James McCafferty, a left-winger and the mineworkers' union representative, currently vice-chairman. But there will be strong opposition from moderates keen to nip in the bud any idea of a Tartan People's Republic.

Alan Hamilton

Or did I really write A Clockwork Lemon?

Anthony Burgess on the perils of being colour blind

An otherwise kindly reviewer of my novel *Malesia!* has informed his readers that I am a sufferer from daltonism, which the British call colour blindness. This presumably was to prepare readers of the novel for gross solecisms of chromatic description — blue palms and orange coconuts and green-skinned Tamils. Prospective readers who do, in fact, fear finding such misinterpretations of the visible world in my fiction can set their fears at rest. I always ask a person with normal vision — always a woman; men cannot be trusted — to check my pigments, as I ask a woman also to check the clothes I put on my women characters.

There are male authors who dress their women atrociously — D. H. Lawrence, for instance — but I have never yet shown bad taste in couture and, similarly, I have never imposed my daltonism on my readers.

Colour cecity was discovered by John Dalton, a native of my own city of Manchester. For me to be daltonian may be fancifully seen as a kind of unwilled regional patriotism.

We usually discover that we have the affliction when we are at school and paint eccentrically in art lessons. I produced trees with orange leaves and was laughed at by all the girls as well as, cruelly, my teacher, who was a nun. It is the green part of the spectrum that causes trouble. Later our achromatopsia can be confirmed by use of that Japanese test which is really a pointilliste colour composition in which the figure 5 shines clearly for the normally sighted but the figure 2, just as clearly, for the unfortunate daltonians.

I recognize that this subject will be of small interest for many of my readers (viz the normally sighted), but, as this is an age supposedly concerned with the welfare of minorities, it is well that the majority realize what danger lies for the whole world in the assumption that colour is a viable element in communications.

During the last war I was staying for a time in the mess of a training centre of the Royal Air Force. There was a delightful senior officer, too old for flying, whose task it was to test flying recruits for physical suitability for the vocation. He came into the mess one evening and said: "A very strange thing, gentlemen, but I'm discovering that about 80 per cent of our candidates are colour blind."

It then dawned upon us that this senior officer had gone through life with an undiagnosed case of achromatopsia, and that he had rejected innumerable recruits whose colour vision was normal while accepting a smaller number who could not distinguish a red signal from a green. The same thing happened for a long time in the navy and the railway service — colour blind drivers and sailors unable to read a danger signal and endangering many lives.

Colour blind drivers of cars are able to distinguish the colours of traffic signals through their position rather than their essence, and there are no recorded cases of road accidents caused by achromatopsia. But there are too many semiotic systems based on sheer colour, and some of these are becoming too sophisticated for safety.

At Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, passengers are admitted to sections of the transatlantic flights on the basis of possession of a boarding card which may be any colour from violet to crimson. I find it embarrassing to ask fellow-passengers what colour my card is: they think that I am indulging in a pointless joke. At the Festival Hall in London there are brown tickets and green tickets. I have ceased to attend concerts there since I do not care to divulge my affliction to strangers. I understand that — and here comes danger more than mere embarrassment — the Pentagon is in favour of a colour taxonomy for the final processes of pressing the doomsday button — a logical conclusion to the spectrum of coloured "alerts" that is already in use.

Evidently, the normally visioned just cannot comprehend a state of affairs in which human beings, otherwise sane and healthy, fail to see parts of the rainbow or, seeing them, confuse them. In the London Underground some years ago passengers were issued with either white tickets or yellow tickets. If you had a yellow ticket you pushed it into a machine as you left the station; if you had a white ticket you handed it to the ticket collector.

Now all the ticket collectors on the London transport system are black West Indians, hypersensitive to the colour question. When I daltonically handed a yellow ticket to a black collector and was told that I had to push it into a machine, I answered, naturally; "Sorry, I'm colour blind." This was taken to be an adverse comment on the existence of black-skinned people in the United Kingdom, and I nearly found myself in a fight.

Italians, whose world is alive with southern colour, must already pity Northerners like myself, who live in a world of grey skins, grey clothes and grey public buildings. What must they think of a colour-blind Northerner, who cannot appreciate the glories of Italian painting? What we never have we never miss, and I have learned to appreciate the visual arts through their handling of shape and formal balance rather than their skill with indigo and gamboge (whatever they are).

I notice that the tone-deaf are not pitied as the colour-blind are. A man who cannot distinguish a flute from a trumpet or hear counterpoint or tell true harmony from false is regarded as fairly normal. I don't think Italy, universally regarded as a country of musicians, has ever shown much sensitivity to the gradations of what is termed orchestral tone-colour.

Puccini and Respighi are exceptional in their handling of orchestral light and shade, but they had to learn their technique from the French. Verdi, even in *Falstaff*, strikes my ear as more or less monochrome. This may be a national compensation for abnormal capacity for taking in visual colour. On the other hand the French, who produced Debussy and Ravel, also produced the Impressionists. The British have produced nothing that can be regarded as brightly coloured, either in the visual or the auditory art. They have excelled in words, where the attack on the receptor is emotional rather than physical. Probably more Englishmen are colour blind than England suspects.

Of course, there are other visual impairments, this side of total blindness, which may manifest themselves in the arts. El Greco must have been astigmatic: the elongation of his figures points to it.

William Shakespeare was certainly short-sighted. When he describes stars in the sky, these are always fracted into sparkles: they are never clear points of light. When he observes nature, he observes it too closely, in the manner of the myope getting on to his knees to peer. Rudyard Kipling and James Joyce and Aldous Huxley were all partially sighted, and they all seem to be looking through microscopes. But I don't think we daltonians ever give our condition away in our art. We try to conform, and that perhaps is unwise.

Unwise, because to hide colour blindness is to evade a major philosophical issue. Is reality a matter of what the majority perceives? If I see a tree as red while others see it as brown, who — except the majority — is to say that I am wrong? It may well be that the majority are colour blind, and only we few despised daltonians see the world as God made it.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Brunch-talk in Washington yesterday was partly taken up with developments in Poland, partly with the rumours that Sir Nicholas Henderson, our ambassador on the Potomac, is to retire and be replaced by Sir John Thomson, High Commissioner in Delhi. But the tastiest titbit was the news that President Reagan's favourite meal, crab meat and artichoke casserole, has been officially downgraded. The White House, ever sensitive to charges of undue extravagance, has made the change after an unfortunate gaffe on the part of a minor aide.

Susan Benjamin, from Chicago, had written to the President begging him not to cut funds for the education of handicapped children. Like most people who write such letters she received a glossy photograph and a standard reply. In her case, however, she got the wrong letter, the one about Ronald Reagan's favourite dish, which just happens to cost $20 a portion.

Ms Benjamin made quite a fuss over the mistake, saying she was appalled that White House food should be that expensive when cutbacks in other areas were hurting so much. So the White House has capitulated — and the new Presidential favourite is declared to be none other than macaroni and cheese — cost: roughly $2 a portion.

Mrs Thatcher's basement nightclub

Police guarding the home of Mrs Thatcher in Flood Street, Chelsea, thought they had arrested a would-be assassin when they stopped an Israeli the other night and found him in possession of a knife. Arye Salomon, aged 23, from Bat Yam, protested in vain that he thought the basement of the Prime Minister's home was, of all things, a nightclub. The knife, he added, was part of his camping kit — he was at the end of a hitchhiking tour of Europe after completing national service in Israel. It was only during a 90-minute interrogation at Chelsea police station that police began to believe his story. Salomon brandished his copy of Tommy Lapid's famous Israeli guide to Europe listing what appeared be the PM's home as a nightspot. Lapid is director of Israeli state television and was once London correspondent of the Israeli newspaper, *Maariv*. Saloman was ordered to carry on with his travels.

Afterwords

The hangover competition, I must tell you, has been won hands-down by the Scandinavians. Trisha Vargas, of Richmond in Surrey, says that Chicagoans have a phrase, "It was very drunken out last night . . ." which, as she says, is a nice way of avoiding the blame. But William Moore, from Vantaa in Finland, has written to say that the Finnish slang dictionary lists 29 entries for hangover (although that is modest when set alongside the 102 expressions for being drunk). Hangover slang includes: *lunta tyynyssä* ("snow in his pillow"), *pienat sepät* ("little smiths" — ie, pounding in the brain), the lovely *flindaflunssa* ("Bottle 'flu"); and the more serious *lasirokko* ("glasspox").

Impressive as Mr Moore's letter was, I feel that Jeremy Geelan, from Aarhus in Denmark, and editor of *Logophile*, has just pipped him. He quotes from the magazine's own survey and includes:

From Burma — *gaungit*, which evokes "that which, while it lasts, makes a man feel that the clapper of the heaviest temple bell for miles around is playing tunes on the inside of his skull".

Cuba and Venezuela — *rajon*, which literally means a "mouse" But is also an onomatopaeic rendering of the stomach and the head.

Spain and Portugal — *resaca*, which stands for the pounding of breakers on a rocky promontory, or *rezume*, which means to drip and suggests the overflowing of the wine from the head after too much.

Flindaflunssa has to be the most musical of the bunch and the one I shall show off with from now on. But Mr Geelan wins the Veuve Clicquot.

Tatchell as Attlee

Mr Peter Tatchell's views on "extra-parliamentary action" are well-publicized but, to someone of my moderate tendencies, still less than explicit. Last week, he says, he told Mr Michael Foot that all he meant by the phrase was mass lobbying of the House of Commons. Over the weekend, however, when Mr Benn spoke about the affair for the first time, he called for more anti-government action outside Parliament and said: "We have to consider very seriously a policy of deliberate disengagement from the establishment of our society". Whatever these two statements mean, they would not seem to mean the same thing.

In fact, says Tatchell, who phoned me out of the blue, his views are in line with that grand old man of the Labour Party (and former Prime Minister) Clem Attlee. The would-be Labour Party candidate for Bermondsey has been sent two quotes from an Attlee book, published by the Left Book Club in 1937. Tatchell thinks them worthy of wider circulation.

"While, as I have stated, the Labour Party is steadily opposed to tactics of revolutionary action and violence, and has always pinned its faith to constitutional action, it has never ignored the possibility that occasions may arise when extra-parliamentary action may become necessary. If Labour cannot obtain a majority, it must as a minority accept the will of the majority. It may seek to influence that majority and those to whom it has entrusted power by other lawful means, but to try to enforce its will on a majority by violence is contrary to this democratic faith. Stated thus, the proposition seems simple, but in fact there are borderline cases which require more examination."

And: "It may be that the government which has received a mandate from the electors deliberately goes against or beyond the wishes of those from whom it has derived its power. . . Thus a government might, in defiance of its election pledges, take action which amounted to aggression leading to a war.

"It may be, then, right and necessary for a minority to take action, but it must be recognized that at that stage the method of constitutional action has been abandoned. A revolutionary situation may result."

Two comments: (1) Given time, as any journalist knows, you can almost always find a quotation to support any point of view; (2) The quotes *still* do not sound simply like lobbying Parliament.

"Save on Christmas dinner"

The above cartoon was banned in Poland even before yesterday's crackdown. It is by Andrzej Krauze, the Pole likened by George Mikes to Vicky. Krauze has had scores of his cartoons banned in Warsaw; others have been published only by *Solidarnosc*, Solidarity's own weekly. The artist is now in London on a visit to mark publication, by Nina Karsov, of *Andrzej Krauze's Poland*, which contains 68 of his banned cartoons. Developments in Poland have caused Krauze even more foreboding than the rest of us for, given his links with Solidarity, and that extension of censorship, he fears he will not be allowed back in his country for some time. You can help by buying his book.

Too much!

The 9.25 Paddington to Penzance express has no problem with its tilt, but it does have some Awfully Pernickety Train staff. When the waiter went through the carriages the other day, making the first call for lunch, one traveller who, I am told, looked as if he might be a university lecturer, asked: "By the way, how much is your lunch these days?". The waiter said: "The fact that you've asked, sir, means it's too much."

Quiz answers

1. It was announced that Arthur Scargill had been elected the next President of the National Union of Mineworkers.
2. Bare-headed motorcyclists drove on a 35-mile ride in protest at the compulsory wearing of crash helmets.
3. Mr Tony Forward's car, converted to run on gas, exploded last Monday night, destroying the car, and much of his house and garage.
4. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, played Father Christmas at a party for handicapped children at No 11 last week.
5. The Monopolies Commission has vetoed European Ferries' intended bid for Sealink.
6. Sheikh Yamani hinted that some oil prices might be cut.
7. The Spanish military authorities put 100 officers under house arrest for having criticized the country's free press.
8. The all-party Commons Select Committee on Education forecast that because of Government cuts, several universities will soon become bankrupt.
9. The Varsity Match was played on a thick carpet of snow at Twickenham last Tuesday.
10. A selection conference failed to decide whether or not Mr William Hamilton should represent his Central Fife constituency at the next General Election.
11. Lockheed is to end production of the Tristar; bad news for Rolls-Royce, who provide engines for the airliner.
12. A Gallup poll on European attitudes shows that the British take the most pride in their work.
13. Little Ben, the street clock, was re-established outside Victoria Station.
14. The Government has issued a consultative paper on ways to involve the unemployed in voluntary work.

Peter Watson

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THE TIMES

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LIGHTS OUT IN WARSAW

General Jaruzelski is making one last desperate bid to save communist power in Poland. He has reached this point as a result of two major failures. The most important has been the failure of the party apparatus over the past fifteen months to seize the torch of reform and run forward with it. This would have been the only way of outbidding Solidarity for leadership of the nation. Instead, the party has had to be jostled forward, giving ground reluctantly at every point, thereby persuading the public that pressure must be continuously mobilized against it. The inevitable result has been that the party has gradually crumbled.

The second failure has been the failure of Solidarity to maintain its own coherence and discipline. This is a more forgivable failure because Solidarity was not created or organized to run the country. It came into existence as a trade union and protest movement whose aim was to put pressure on the government. Recently it has put too much pressure on the regime by demanding, among other things, free local elections in February, which the communists would certainly have lost. This was a failure of judgment but one which was almost inevitable when the movement found itself sucked into such a vast area of power vacated by the regime.

The army began to move into the vacuum some time ago. Now General Jaruzelski has gambled on something approaching a total occupation. Although he says in his proclamation that responsibility still rests with the civilian administration he seems in fact to be introducing military rule on a pattern familiar in other parts of the world — a "military council of national salvation" steps in to save the nation from disaster while promising to restore political rule as soon as possible.

Will he succeed? At the moment it looks as if there is only one condition on which he can do so, and that is if he can persuade some moderate leaders of Solidarity to persuade the country that he really is more determined than the civilian rulers have ever been to preserve and develop the reforms. He implies in his proclamation that this is his aim. He has also hoisted an important signal by arresting Mr Gierek, the former party leader, and some of his associates. This is a concession to a long-standing public demand that those responsible for the crisis should be brought to justice. It conveys the significant message that General Jaruzelski is not putting all the blame on Solidarity but is accepting that the party must take its share. Therefore party members must not interpret the new measures as an attempt to restore the *status quo ante*. Rather, the army will be a cleansing agent, sweeping through the inertia and corruption of the administration at the same time as putting down attempts to destroy the system from outside.

While many people would like to believe in this, scepticism is now deep in their bones. Even if Mr Walesa can be persuaded to support the army it is far from certain that he will be listened to. Although he still has great popular appeal, the local organizations of Solidarity have been growing increasingly radical, and the population as a whole is weary, angry, frustrated and hungry. It is extremely difficult to predict how it will react. Over the past few years a new element of pragmatic realism has seemed to be coming to the fore in Poland, but the old suicidal romanticism of the Poles has not vanished altogether. It could still drive resistance beyond the point of no return.

If it does, General Jaruzelski will surely feel obliged to use force. He has a profound antipathy towards doing so, but he would probably feel there was no choice. He would start by using the armed security police. They would probably be willing to shoot because they are specially trained and motivated for this type of work. They do not have the intimate contact with society which the conscript army has, and they probably see their future as more closely tied to the presevation of a certain type of regime. But there are not enough of them to put down nationwide resistance. Everything would therefore depend on whether a limited show of force would have an exemplary effect. If it did not, the next line of defence would be the army.

The country would then enter an area of even greater uncertainty. Most of the soldiers are ordinary Poles who share the experiences, aims and feelings of those against whom they would be asked to shoot. It is highly probable that they would not shoot. It is also well within the bounds of possibility that if the Russians moved in to do their dirty work they would be readier to shoot Russians than to shoot their own people. At this point the imagination begins to falter in the face of a disaster which might well move out of anyone's control. General Jaruzelski clearly believes that saving the regime is synonymous with saving the nation. That is now the central issue.

TRUST THE PEOPLE

Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, the MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden, is following a somewhat well-trodden path in resigning from the Labour Party and seeking to join the Social Democrats. Twenty six other MPs have taken that course before him. But he is unique in that he intends not just to move to the Social Democrats benches in the House of Commons, but then to resign his seat and fight a by-election.

This has upset the Social Democrats at both national and local level. He is thought to be rather presumptuous in taking it for granted that he would be the SDP candidate in a by-election. To make matters worse, he is suspected of blackmailing the party into accepting him as its candidate. But perhaps his most grievous sin is to be acting in a way that casts the founding fathers of the party in a less than heroic light. If Mr Douglas-Mann feels he is under an obligation to be freshly endorsed by the electorate before sitting in the Commons as an SDP member, why did the rest of them not go back to the voters when they set up the party earlier this year? Could their appreciation of constitutional niceties possibly have been disturbed by the fear of defeat.

Mr Douglas-Mann's explanation is that he is acting differently because he starts from a different position. He fought the last election as an anti-Marketeer but now believes that Britain should remain a member of the European Community. This is an issue of critical importance to the country and is one on which the SDP has placed particular emphasis. So there is some force in Mr Douglas-Mann's contention that he is changing more than his party.

It would be wrong to be dogmatic about constitutional proprieties here. There are sufficient precedents to justify other Social Democrat MPs staying in the Commons, without bothering about by-elections, after crossing the floor. But other precedents support Mr Douglas-Mann. He is proposing to do precisely what Mr Taverne did at Lincoln in 1973. No MP should be deterred from taking the more rigorous line; indeed, he should always be encouraged.

Mr Douglas-Mann should have no automatic right to be the SDP candidate in a by-election, but there is a presumption that a sitting MP who transfers to the party before the end of this year will be the candidate next time. It has been agreed with the Liberals that those who are sitting as Liberal or SDP members at the beginning of 1982 will be recognised as alliance candidates provided they are adopted by their respective parties; and the draft SDP constitution specifies that a general meeting of the area party shall be called to decide if a sitting member should be endorsed. If he is rejected then there shall be a ballot of all members of the area party.

It would be reasonable for Mr Douglas-Mann to be asked at such a meeting whether, if he were not chosen, he would support another SDP candidate. But he has a better claim to represent the Social Democrats than some others who have preceded him into the party. The SDP would have most to gain and least to lose by endorsing him. They should give him full support in a by-election.

David Wood

A last look at Strasbourg

This week I take my leave of the European Parliament after attending to its affairs for nine years, and by chance the programme for the plenary part session (to use the official phrase) is uncommonly inviting. Mrs Thatcher will address the chamber on Wednesday and become only the second prime minister to do so during her country's presidency.

On Thursday, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will report on the modest achievements and the more-notable non-achievements of the Community during the United Kingdom's six months' presidency of the Council of Ministers. Much of the rest of the time will be spent on the Community's budget for 1982, the one area of decision where the parliament has authentic if limited power, at least in theory. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the campaigns of Sir James Scott-Hopkins, Herr Egon Klepsch, and Mr Pieter Dankert to succeed Mme Simone Veil as president will reach their rather bitter climax.

In the nine years that have passed since Britain joined the Community, there have, of course, been three outstanding developments: the transformation of the old delegated parliament into a directly elected parliament in 1979, the beginning of the second wave of Community enlargement a year ago when Greece took its place and the beginning of the historic struggle for the parliament to control the Community purse by increasing its power over a budget proposed by the Commission and finally settled by the Council of Ministers.

Since this is the crucial budget week, let us begin a retrospect by discussing Parliament's ability to settle, or influence, how Community resources are to be spent. It is astonishing to look back five years, to the arrival of Mr Christopher Tugendhat as a Brussels commissioner, and remember what a relatively uncontroversial subject parliament until then made of the budget. Indeed as a junior incoming commissioner, Mr Tugendhat was given the budget portfolio because all his seniors saw more scope for their abilities and ambitions elsewhere. Then, almost suddenly, the old nominated Parliament began to exploit a new opportunity: parliament had won the power to reject the budget, lock, stock and barrel, and a say about non-obligatory spending.

Unfortunately, like the other scant formal powers of the parliament, it was an unusable or self-defeating ultimate deterrent.

If Parliament defied the Council of Ministers and threw out the budget, it merely meant that the Community lived from month to month on the basis of the preceding year's budget, according to the "twelfth" rule. And parliament was fighting to increase spending, especially on social and regional policies, usually at the expense of the Common Agricultural Policy, which is earmarked as compulsory expenditure. Nevertheless, every budget since 1978 has been bitterly contested by parliament, and one was actually rejected (though ineffectually).

The struggle will continue this year, with the parliament trying to add to community expenditure, and the Council of Ministers cutting back. The Council look like winning in the end once more. In Strasbourg this week it may be all sound and fury signifying little, but not quite nothing.

It is fair to say that the European Parliament will not come of age and be capable of helping to promote the grand Europeanist policies it so fondly talks about, until it wins more power over the Community purse. Yet there are Europeanists, as well as the growing ranks of uncommitted, who would look askance at any such objective.

The national governments of the Ten, not least West Germany and the United Kingdom, are never slow to grieve that financially there are winners and losers within the Community; and the losers are never going to allow Strasbourg to increase a domestic tax burden that they themselves are trying to curb or cut. It would be a brave Europeanist politician who set out to argue that French MEPs should have the right to levy taxes on the British, or vice versa. Taxation, like charity, begins at home.

Nor is it a simple answer, often though it be heard in Strasbourg debates, to say that desirable urban industrial and social policies should be financed out of savings on the costs of the CAP. For the French and Irish Republic the CAP itself, despite its anomalies and distortions, is a social and regional policy, though less so now than when farmers were first given the lion's share of Community resources. Beyond that, Sir Henry Plumb, former president of the NFU, and now chairman of the Parliamentary agricultural committee, can show with chapter and verse that, leaving aside overseas aid, CAP expenditure represents not 70 per cent, as is ususually claimed, but less than 50 per cent of the Community budget.

All in all, the last nine years in Strasbourg have made me marvel at the anti-Marketeers' tireless protests against a delusory loss of domestic sovereignty to Europe. Sovereignty still resides in the men forming the Council of Ministers, if necessary wielding their power of veto; and the European parliament, growing promisingly as it has, is still only at the beginning of a long, long trail a-winding unto the land of Europeanist dreams.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Communion with Rome?

From the Bishop of Birmingham

Sir, The letter of Bishops Moorman and Knapp-Fisher (December 5) deserves some response. It is indeed true that "we should become, and be seen to be, one Church", although happily it is not true that Christians now "constitute but a small part of the world's population". It is, however, just as important that Christians should be, and be seen to be, people of integrity who are dedicated to the truth as they understand it. On this vital aspect of the Christian life the bishops are strangely silent.

With others I do not believe (and I would hold that the evidence is on our side) that the Bishop of Rome can properly lay claim to infallibility. I do not believe that he can legitimately lay claim to universal jurisdiction. I do not believe that a Christian should be required to hold *de fide* that the Blessed Virgin Mary bodily ascended into heaven. The three reports of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Communion, following on the Malta report, show a very striking convergence of belief between the two Communions on other doctrines, but not on these (although I note that the findings of ARCIC have not yet been officially endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church).

Like others, I yearn for closer communion with my Roman Catholic brothers and sisters with whom I have so much more in common than what holds us apart. But how can I deny what I believe to be true? It would be equally wrong for Roman Catholics to be asked to deny what they hold to be true; and the present Pope has to date not shown much liking for doctrinal pluralism, however well-founded some of us may think this to be in our New Testament sources.

I hope and pray that the eagerly awaited final report of ARCIC may find some honourable way out of this apparent impasse. But to suggest that we "postpone entering into agreements with other churches" (with whom we have had far closer relationships over the centuries than with Rome) because these "would inevitably draw us away from what is bound to be the coming great church" is an extraordinary statement, on two counts.

First, if Rome is already holding discussions with Methodists and others, with a view to "establishing that one great church to which we all look", why should our prior agreement with them be a hindrance to its coming? Secondly, the theological implications of any projected agreement with these churches are of less account than the more fundamental differences between Rome and Canterbury on papal and Marian dogmas.

Yours faithfully,
†HUGH BIRMINGHAM,
Bishop's Croft,
Old Church Road,
Harborne,
Birmingham.
December 6.

Bukovsky view

From Mr David Markham

Sir, I should like to comment briefly on my friend Vladimir Bukovsky's article (December 4) "Better Red than dead is not good enough."

Because of Soviet infiltration into *some* peace groups, he seems to suggest that the entire peace movement is phoney. I hope that life-long pacifists, as distinct from what he calls "frightened people" and "peace-lovers", will not feel injured and offended by Vladimir's angry strictures: he has the right to be angry and suspicious about Soviet propaganda — by no means confined to the peace movement — as I know from my own experience in the past.

The threatened use of genocidal weapons is morally indefensible and practically senseless.

Both sides know this and both sides cling to it. Meanwhile, the civilian populations are blackmailed into a resigned acceptance of the inevitable. Only the people on both sides, who have nothing to lose but their lives, can avert the terrible results of their own governments' folly.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARKHAM,
Lear Cottage,
Colemans Hatch,
Hartfield, Sussex.

Science and Darwin

From Dr David Ridge

Sir, The Evolutionist versus Creationist debate shows all signs of getting out of hand through imprecise use of terms. Sir Fred Hoyle (feature, December 7) may well be right that the State of Arkansas defines "evolution science" as strict Darwinism, but a lot has been learned since Darwin's time. Evolution, as contrasted with Special Creation, means descent with modification; it means the production of new species from old species by small steps. It means no more.

How small is small? What constitutes a new species? Is natural variation enough to produce sufficient change? Can larger changes be directed by external (or internal) factors? These are questions for rational debate, illuminated by the findings of systematic study.

My own wonder at the diversity of living things is matched only by my wonder at the uniformity of the molecular mechanisms by which they all work. It smacks of a paucity of imagination in any supposed creator.

Karl Popper's definitions (Mr Leslie Cunliffe, Dec 7) are, as usual, complete red herrings.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RIDGE,
3 Countess Road,
London NW5.
December 7.

Mapping constituency boundaries

From the Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England

Sir, It may be that unintentionally Dr Marshall has misled some of your readers by his letter published on December 10. He states that the Government has been "using every opportunity to accelerate the current review by the Boundary Commission." The facts are that the commission is independent and has been acting completely independently without any pressure of any description from the Government. The following comments may therefore be helpful.

The commission uses wards as its building blocks and has hence been dependent upon the completion of the reviews of the Local Government Boundary Commission. As is common knowledge their work was severely interrupted by the Enfield litigation and in consequence so was the work of this commission. Accordingly this commission is in any event well behind the schedule it had originally set itself.

It may be relevant to recall that under the legislation applicable the commission works upon electoral quotas and electorates determined at the time of the instigation of the review, in the present case 1976. It is obvious that the longer their review now takes the more likely it is to be completely out of date before it even comes into effect.

The number of staff in the secretariat of the English Commission has been increased recently, because there has been more work to be done. The last Order implementing revisions to the district wards following the Local Government Boundary Commission's reviews was made in February 1981 and the number of counties being completed in that review accelerated during the last two years. The parliamentary Boundary Commission were only then able to proceed with their review of the parliamentary constituencies in those counties.

With more counties being processed, therefore, there was much more work to be done and more clerical staff were needed. Similarly with mapping and advertising costs to be met for more counties the cash limit for expenditure had to be increased.

It is true that a lot of local inquiries are being held at this time. Having published their provisional recommendations for the last of a number of counties earlier this year, the commission now have many areas where they are required to hold inquiries. At this stage therefore most of the secretariat's resources are directed at making all the arrangements for local inquiries. The concentration of a number of inquiries during this period has increased the difficulties in finding assistant commissioners who were free from other commitments to hold local inquiries and the number appointed was therefore recently brought back up to the number who were originally appointed.

The Home Office Ministers have not set this commission a target date for submitting its report. This commission has long been aware of the anomalies created when the local government boundaries were reorganised in 1974 and of the large disparities between the electorates of the present constituencies. The commission therefore wish to report as soon as possible, and the earliest possible date appears to be at the end of 1982.

Yours faithfully,
G. P. BARNES,
Secretary,
Boundary Commission for England,
St Catherines House,
10 Kingsway, WC2.

From Mr Tom Ellis, MP for Wrexham (Social Democrat)

Sir, The charge of undue governmental pressure on the Boundary Commissions (Dr Edmund Marshall, MP, Letters, December 10) is an example of the wrangling if not the allegations of gerrymandering which always seem to accompany the periodic constituency boundary reviews. An electoral system which would avoid the need for boundary changes would have much to commend it.

However, an even more unsatisfactory feature of the boundaries aspect of our electoral system is the artificiality with which the boundaries are drawn in the first instance. Ideally parliamentary constituencies, like local government areas, should correspond to natural social and political units. indeed Parliament has partially recognized this principle in requiring the commissioners not to have constituencies straddling shire boundaries. The closer a constituency corresponds to its natural society then the closer will its member or members identify with it.

Unfortunately (except in a few cases) this is not possible with the present single-member constituencies while at the same time complying with the other important principle of broadly equal electorates per member.

Both these desirable features — avoiding boundary changes and having "natural" constituencies — can be achieved through multi-member constituencies.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ELLIS,
House of Commons.
December 10.

Engineering courses

From Professor Carl Hanson

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Douglas Doughty which appeared in your issue of December 4 but am concerned that this may give the impression of all undergraduate sandwich courses in engineering facing imminent disaster.

As one who has been responsible over many years for the operation of a thin sandwich course with a large intake, I would fully support his comments on the benefits of this form of engineering education and its popularity amongst both students and industry. I also appreciate how demoralizing it must be for potential students when they experience great difficulty in securing sponsorship where this is required in order to follow such a course. However, I think there are two points which should be drawn to the attention of your readers.

Firstly, when seeking sponsorship at the start of a course one is asking an employer to take on a commitment for a four-year period, something which is obviously a problem at a time of great uncertainty. Secondly, it should be made clear that many departments do not expect students to obtain sponsorships.

Thus, in the case of my own school, candidates are enrolled as college-based students with the understanding that the school will negotiate the industrial placements. These are handled on a year-to-year basis. This means any particular student will receive training in three different industrial concerns, thus giving a spectrum of experience, whilst a particular company is only asked to undertake a commitment to an immediate six-month period. This is typical of many departments.

It is true that the ease of placement of sandwich-course students in industry represents a sensitive barometer to the economic climate of the country. The last year has presented more difficulties with our scheme than in earlier times, but we have still succeeded in maintaining our total commitment to the sandwich system.

Bearing in mind the difficulties which industry has faced, the loyalty shown by te majority of employers with whom we deal has been a tribute to the favour in which the scheme is held and I would like to record our indebtedness to them.

Yours faithfully,
CARL HANSON,
Schools of Chemical Engineering,
University of Bradford,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire,
December 4.

Immigrant exiles

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, As the season of good will approaches may I, through your columns, appeal to the Home Secretary to relax the harshness of the immigration rules in favour of the small number of people in this country who have exiled themselves from tyrannical regimes in their home countries?

As an instance, there are numerous Iranians here, often elderly, with children or other relatives either settled or studying here. Many of these people fear a return to Iran either because they oppose Muslim fundamentalists, or because they served the Shah in some minor capacity, or simply because of the anarchic and unpredictable state of affairs in Iran; but because of the rigidity of our immigration rules they cannot qualify for political asylum.

Most also have adequate financial resources but cannot qualify as persons of independent means, again because of the inflexible requirement of the rules that a capital of at least £100,000 and proof of a close connection with this country be shown and entry clearance obtained abroad.

These people would be no burden on us; indeed they have brought capital here; and for the most part they only want a temporary sojourn.

In recent months I have handled quite a number of such hard cases in which the Minister of State has turned a deaf ear to pleas for compassion, and many MPs will have similar experiences.

Britain has in the past prided itself on being a tolerant haven for refugees. Can this Government, which professes to support the traditional virtues, not make a gesture towards these people? It would cost us nothing and the happiness and good will that would accrue would be enormous.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
B. M. Birnberg & Co,
Solicitors,
103 Borough High Street, SE1.
December 7.

Bishop's appointment

From Mr John Thornton

Sir, I write to protest at the poor quality of your report of the appointment of the new Bishop of Worcester.

You spell his name wrongly four times, you wrongly refer to him as Dr, you tell us that he has two children when he has four, he was Rector of South Ormesby not Vicar, Bishop Hatendi of Mashonaland was his curate not just a guest and in four places your typesetters have run words together. Virtually no fact is correct.

You owe an apology to Bishop Goodrich and to your readers, and I trust we shall see one.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN THORNTON,
Alburgh House,
Alburgh,
Harleston,
Norfolk.
December 6.

We apologize for the errors in the report.

Playing rugby in the snow

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union

Sir, I wish to refer to the Sports Editor's article on December 10 in which he criticises the Rugby Football Union for failing to clear the pitch on Tuesday for the Varsity Match.

It indicates a remarkable lack of understanding of the problems and is typical of one who has no responsibility for whatever action is taken.

I also have an advantage over Mr Keith in that I have the advice of some of the most experienced and knowledgeable groundstaff in the country. I was on the pitch at 6.15 am soon after the snow started and at first there was every hope that the large wet flakes of snow which were falling would melt quickly and all would be well. Unfortunately, it became colder and by 9 am there were two inches of solid snow on the pitch.

A lengthy consultation with the Meteorological Office established that the snow would continue until 11.30 am and the temperature would drop still further. They proved right and by 12 noon there was four to five inches of snow on the pitch and the temperature was well below freezing.

The parts of the ground which had been cleared to expose the lines was hardening and there was a danger that exposing more ground would result in an unplayable pitch.

It will be recalled that this happened in 1952 when a similar situation arose prior to the England v Ireland match and after clearing half the pitch it was discovered that it was rapidly becoming frozen and possibly unplayable. However, the match was completed with half the pitch under snow and the other half a frozen slippery and dangerous surface.

The case of the Vale of Lune is entirely different and Wembley did have 24 hours in which to decide what to do and even then it took 60 men six hours to clear it.

It is calculated that there was over 400 tons of snow on the playing surface at Twickenham at midday on Tuesday, a somewhat daunting task for the hundreds of volunteers which he offers. Furthermore, to use his words, his imagination obviously does not stretch to how one gets rid of the snow once it has been "worked towards the middle" I would suggest that the damage caused to the pitch by these willing enthusiasts would have rendered it unplayable for some time.

I believe that we took the correct action and witnessed a most exciting match with the players on both sides deserving every credit for playing the quality of football they did in appalling conditions.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. G. WEIGHILL, Secretary,
The Rugby Football Union,
Twickenham,
December 11.

Far from clear

From Mr John Boulton

Sir, Concerning the query about ice cubes in plastic bags (December 4) the following simple experiment was performed:

Four plastic film bags, two clear, two opaque, and one of each kind perforated with pinholes, were loaded each with six ice cubes and left in the deep freeze for 20 hours. The result was: clear film, cubes stuck solid. Clear film pinholed, cubes separate or easily separated. Opaque film, cubes stuck solid. Opaque film pinholed, cubes easily separated.

Repeated in the kitchen refrigerator the experiment gave the same answers as in the deep freeze.

The bags used appear to be made of polyethylene film. What result might be given by any other of the film-forming substances which might be used for making freezer bags is not known. But, clearly, the coalescence of cubes kept frozen in a bag does not depend upon the opacity of the bags used; it would appear to depend upon the accessibility of air through perforations.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
JOHN BOULTON,
18 Lillington Avenue,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.

May not sign

From Mr H. Lal

Sir, With reference to the letter from Dr Param Jit Singh (December 8), as a practising dentist I have signed passport application forms for persons known to me for more than two years and after my signature I have added in parentheses (Indian subject). The passport authorities have always accepted my signature and the last application form signed by me was less than two months ago.

I remain, yours faithfully,
HARBANS LAL,
242 Finchley Road, NW3.

Never on Monday

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, A recent delivery of almanacs reveals that my printer has embraced the irritating trend of now showing the first day of the week as Monday.

However, some small redemption was obtained when he agreed to accept payment by the middle of the following week.

I settled up on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Wildhern,
Andover,
Hampshire,
December 4.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: By command of The Queen, the Earl of Avon (Lord in Waiting) called upon The President of the Republic of Zaire and Madame Mobutu at Claridges this evening and, on behalf of Her Majesty, bade farewell to Their Excellencies upon their departure from this Country.

December 13: The Prince and Princess of Wales this morning attended a Service in Gloucester Cathedral.

His Royal Highness, President, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, was present this evening at the Friends of Covent Garden Christmas Party at the Royal Opera House.

The Hon Edward Adeane and Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith were in attendance.

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany is 67 today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. Clifton and Miss S. A. White
The engagement is announced between Robert John, only son of Mr and Mrs A. E. Clifton, of Dawlish, Devon, and Sarah Anne, daughter of Captain H. White, RN, of Seaton, Devon, and the late Mrs White.

Mr D. A. Chapman and Miss M. S. J. Nicklin
The engagement is announced between David Andrew, only son of Mr P. F. Chapman, of Abu Dhabi, and Mrs R. W. Chapman, of Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent, and Maria Susan Jane, second daughter of Mr and Mrs B. A. Nicklin, of Hawkhurst, Kent.

Mr S. K. Smith and Miss V. S. Lloyd-Rees
The engagement is announced between Stephen Kenneth, son of Mr and Mrs K. Smith, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Victoria Spencer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. L. Lloyd-Rees, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, United States.

Mr C. S. Pulford and Miss J. S. Foster Taylor
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of the Rev S. L and Mrs Pulford, of Coberley, Cheltenham, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs M Foster Taylor, of Theydon Bois, Essex.

Marriage

Mr N. Brims and Miss A. Dismorr
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 12, at The Church of Christ The King, Gordon Square, between Mr Nigel Brims and Miss Anne Dismorr. The Rev Jonathan Jaspar officiated.

25 Years Ago

From The Times of Wednesday, December 12, 1956

Vienna, December 11. — The response was virtually complete in Budapest today to the call for a 48-hour general strike, made by the central workers' council for greater Budapest on Sunday; and this in spite of the subsequent outlawing of the council and the imposition by the Government of martial law. It is understood that the council deliberately allowed one day to pass between its call to strike and the time instruction came into force to demonstrate its control over the workers; but in fact the arrest of several members of the council on Sunday morning brought some factories out on strike immediately.

Service reception

No 7 Squadron

A farewell reception for current and former serving members of No 7 Squadron and their guests was held in the Officers' Mess, St Mawgan, on Saturday to mark the disbandment of the squadron on January 5. The principal guest was Air Vice-Marshal G. A. Chesworth, Chief of Staff No 18 Group.

Latest wills

Mr Nigel Dennis Wemyss Patrick, of Ovington Street, Chelsea, the stage and film actor and director, left estate valued at £244,519 net. He left £3,000 to his son Simon, and the residue to his daughter, Virginia A. Patrick.

Parliament this week

Commons. Today (2.30): Debate on private member's motion on job opportunities in Wales. Civil Aviation Bill and Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages.
Tomorrow (2.30): Social Security (Contributions) Bill, second reading. Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 2) Order.
Wednesday (2.30): Debates on Opposition motions on need for reduced television licence fee for pensioners and on Government imposed increase in council house rents.
Thursday (2.30): Social Security (Contributions) Bill, remaining stages.
Friday (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on communications in London and south-east.

Select committees: Today: Home Affairs: Subcommittee on race relations and immigration. Subject: Police handling of racial attacks. Witnesses: Association of Chief Police Officers; Metropolitan Police (11).
Education, science and arts. Subject: Information technology. Witnesses: Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology; Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts (4).
Foreign affairs. Subject: Caribbean and Central America: British approach to stability, security and development. Witness: Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (4.30).
Wednesday: Defence. Subject: Ministry of Defence organization and procurement. Witnesses: Ministry of Defence (10.30).
Industry and Trade. Subject: British Shipbuilders. Witnesses: Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State, and officials (from the Department of Industry (10.45).
Energy. Subject: North Sea oil depletion policy. Witnesses: Department of Energy (11).

Home affairs. Subject: To examine ways of improving the machinery for investigating complaints against the police and related matters. Witness: Sir Cyril Philips, Chairman of Police Complaints Board.
Social Services. Subject: The age for retirement. Witnesses: Mr Alan Walker, University of Sheffield; Mr Frank Laczko, University of Leeds; Professor C L Cooper and Mrs Ann McGoldrick, UMIST; Mr Malcolm Johnson, Policy Studies Institute. (4.15).
Treasury and Civil Service Subcommittee. Subject: Efficiency and effectiveness in the Civil Service. Witness: Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet (4.15).
European Legislation. Subject: Medical and Public Health research. Witnesses: Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, Under-Secretary for Social Services and officials of Health and Social Security (4.30).
Welsh Affairs. Subject: Water in Wales. Witnesses: Severn-Trent Water Authority (4.30).
Thursday Agriculture. Subject: Less favoured areas. Witnesses: Crofters' Commission (11).
Energy. Subject: North sea oil depletion policy. Witness: Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State, Department of Energy. (11).

Lords, Monday (2.30): Constitutional Referendum Bill, second reading. Debate on water pollution by cadmium discharges.
Tomorrow (2.30): Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, committee stage, second day.
Wednesday (2.30): Debates on relationship between the arms race and world economy and on development opportunities in the south-west Atlantic.
Thursday (3): Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 2) Order. Debate on future government of Northern Ireland.
Select committees. Tomorrow: EEC subcommittee A (Finance, Economics and Regional Policy). Evidence from Treasury and Bank of England on borrowing and lending activities of the Community (4).
Wednesday: EEC subcommittee D (Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs). Evidence from director of centre for European agricultural studies at Wye College on state aids for agriculture (10.30).
Thursday. EEC subcommittee F (Energy, Transport, Technology and Research). Evidence from oil companies on measures to limit effects of limited shortfall of oil supplies (11).

Progress of legislation

Commons: Dec 7: Housing Act 1980 (Amendment) Bill read a first time. Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Bill read a second time by 301 votes to 244. Currency Bill read a second time.
Lords: Dec 7 Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Bill rejected on second reading by 80 votes to 25. Dec 8: Hops Marketing Bill read the third time and passed. Harbours (Scotland) Bill read a second time. Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Bill read a second time. Dec 9: Leasehold Reform Bill read a first time. Dec 10: Reserve Forces Bill and Copyright Act 1956 (Amendment) Bill both read a first time. Civic Government (Scotland) Bill considered in committee and adjourned.

ADVERTISEMENT

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Muffled Catholic doubts on covenanting

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales are not happy with the covenanting proposals being considered by the Church of England and the Free Churches, and regard them as likely to be harmful to the ultimate goal of church unity.

That fairly arresting conclusion has not been authoritatively and publicly communicated to the interested parties, an inhibition due it seems to an immoderate sense of tact in the Roman Catholic authorities. They do not want to be seen to be interfering in a covenant scheme which they favour in principle but are not participating in.

Their discretion, however, has allowed all sorts of interpretations to be put on their attitude, which has been made easier by the existence of certain disagreements in the ranks of the Roman Catholic experts concerned. A recent public statement of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, drafted apparently with tact rather than clarity as the first priority, has increased the confusion.

After discussing the state of play on the covenant proposals, the conference issued the following statement at the end of its November meeting.

"A number of non-Catholic churches are engaged in discussion whether to enter into a covenant on the basis proposed in the booklet, *Towards Visible Unity, Proposals for a Covenant*. In 1977 the Bishops' Conference gave qualified support to the notion and practice of covenanting in their response to the ten propositions of the Churches' Unity Commission.

"They were unable to accept some of the specific steps such as interchangeability of ministers. But they encouraged covenants between churches, including Catholic churches at local level. The bishops now resolve to send the following message to the Right Rev Kenneth Woollcombe, former Bishop of Oxford and chairman of the Churches' Council for Covenanting.

"'The Episcopal Conference of England and Wales would like to assure the churches engaged in the discussion of the covenanting proposals that whatever our well known reservation, we have followed the serious debate touching the nature of the church with close and sympathetic attention. This gives us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to everything that promotes in our judgment the unity of our Christian churches.

"'At local level we have already indicated (in our response to the ten propositions) our decision to develop every possible form of cooperation.

"'At national level we wish to deepen our collaborations with our Christian brethren in responding to the serious challenges to Christian belief in our society and our fundamental Christian attitudes'."

That message, welcome to the participating churches, appeared to say that there were no important misgivings with the way things were developing. It is now authoritatively said that it was meant to be understood as an indication of considerable misgivings.

In particular, it is said, the bishops share the objections raised by the Anglo-Catholic party as expressed in the minority dissenting report to the General Sinod and since articulated by the Church Union. This will come as powerful ammunition for the Church Union's campaign against the covenant as it is now drafted.

Throughout this affair the participating churches have indicated that they wanted the Roman Catholic church to play a constructive role, and it will come as a disappointment that at this late stage objections are being made to the covenanting proposals, and that it is not being done in a plain and open manner (although there will be respect for the reasoning behind the bishop's reluctance to speak more directly).

It is further said, authoritatively, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy would regret it if the Church of England committed itself to the present covenanting scheme. It would modify, it is said, the Anglican doctrine of ordination and of episcopacy in a way that will make eventual reconciliation with the Roman Catholic church more difficult.

It is also said that the covenanting proposals are incompatible with the joint statements so far produced by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), and that the unpublished fourth joint statement, expected next year, is even more incompatible with the covenant.

Those Anglican circles closest to the ARCIC scene are anxious to have the unpublished statement on the record and in the open as soon as possible, certainly before the covenanting proposals go much farther.

It may well be concluded, though this is not being said authoritatively, that the covenanting proposals are capable of being altered to meet Anglo-Catholic objections, and hence by implication meeting the objections of the Roman Catholic bishops, but the price to pay will be the loss of United Reformed Church participation.

The Methodist Church would find such modifications acceptable to it, as being already within the scope of the 1972 Anglican-Methodist scheme which gained general Methodist consent. That does not mean to say that the Methodists would welcome such modifications, as to do so could mean ditching the United Reform Church.

Strangely enough, if that dilemma materializes, it will be the Methodist Church which has to make the crucial decision affecting all the others. The question would be: is the prospect of eventual unity with Rome more important to the Methodist Church than the prospect of a united church with the Church of England and the United Reformed Church, but with Rome farther away than ever?

The Russian-style princess

The Prince and Princess of Wales leaving Gloucester Cathedral yesterday after attending Holy Communion.

They had braved severe road conditions to visit the historic cathedral of their new home county (Our Gloucester Correspondent writes).

Although the journey from Highgrove is less than twenty miles, they took no chances with the weather and made a 10-mile detour in their chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, using the M5 instead of travelling directly on snow-covered roads. They arrived on time to be greeted by a shivering crowd of about 300 people. The princess had a distinctly Russian look, wearing a grey belted coat with matching cossack hat and muff and knee-length burgundy boots.

☐ The Princess of Wales is the nation's favourite royal person, according to a survey published yesterday in the *News of the World* (the Press Association reports).

An auction record for Sargent

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A painting by John Singer Sargent entitled "Women at Work" was sold for $605,000 (unpublished estimate $500,000), or £321,809, by Christies in New York on Friday. The price toppled an auction record for the artist set by Sotheby's the day before at $260,000.

Sargent, an American, took Europe by storm at the turn of the century, becoming the favoured portraitist of the rich and famous. This is a more personal work, a view of washday in a sunlit, vine-hung courtyard, clearly painting for his own pleasure.

The sale of American pictures and sculpture spanned the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Several new records were set, but 18 per cent was left unsold.

A pair of portraits by John Singleton Copley of Mr and Mrs Joshua Henshaw set an auction price record for the artist at $385,000 (estimate $200,000 to $300,000), or £204,787. Dating from the early 1770's, they have the restrained precision characteristic of Copley's style before he visited England.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
REAR-ADMIRAL: E R Anson to be Chief of Staff to CINCFLEET, May 1.
CAPTAINS: D J Sherval, staff of CINCFLEET as FMEO, April 25; D J Bradby to be Chief of Staff to FO First Flotilla, April 25; D E Prale MOD(PE) as Dep Dir Weapons (Strategic Systems) and as Weapon Group Manager, April 13.
COMMANDERS: D W Mitchell to Collingwood as Exec Offr, June 22; P D Dalley to UK delegation, Brussels, March 16; L A Coleman to staff of FO Medway, June 2; J R Furse to staff of FO Medway as DCPM and SMEO, May 7; H Pelley to MOD as ADNW, March 19; R T R Phillips to Raleigh as Trng Cdre, January 19; N Unsworth to Daedalus as Offr in Cmd Seafield Park and Pres of NAAB, June 7; C B Drew to Argonaut as SMEO, July 2; D H C Morgan to MOD with DN Plans, May 29; D J McGreagor to Fearless, March 5; J W Beatty to Drake on staff of Capt 2M 2nd SM Sqdn as SWEO, April 27; R S Langton to MOD with DGA(N), May 21; R F Lovett to Nato Def Coll Rome, February 12.
Retirements
Commanders W F Charter, Feb 2; T M S Firth, Feb 25; D D H Fowler, Jan 25.

Royal Marines
MAJOR: D J Minords to 3 Cdo Bde Air Sqn RM as OC, November 26.

Army
DEPUTY COLONEL: Major General J C Reilly to Dep Col Warwickshire ERF, November 30.
BRIGADIERS: P G Brooking to 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt as Comd 33 Armd Bde, December 15; N A Butler to Misc LSP Appts as Team Comd SANGCOM Project, December 5; J F M Greer to HQ 22 Engr Gp & Sig Tp, as Comd, December 18; J M Jones to 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt as GSO1, December 18; C B Lane to HQ 1 (BR) Corps as Cc R SIGNALS (Coind Comms), December 4; A W MacL McKinnon to HQ UKLF as GSO1, December 4; W H L Pack to 7 Fd Force HQ & Sig Sqn as Comd, December 15.
COLONELS: D E Canterbury to HQ DAAC as Col GS, December 18; J F Cross to MOD as ADefDP(G), November 30; W T Beatson to HQ BAOR as Col Engr Ops (Dep Comd Engr), December 18; M T A Lord to RMAS Offr School as Comdt, December 18; E S Tremlett to MOD as AAG DAR2/Coind APSC/CPSO, December 5; H S Webster to Staff Coll as COLGS, December 18.
LIEUTENANT COLONELS: A D Bennett RA to PSA as GSO1, December 17; D C Evans RE to RARDE(PE)(AE) as GSO1, December 18; J W Faith 4/7DG to MOD as GSO1, December 18; R Gordon-Duff QO HLDRS to HQ SE Dist as GSO1, December 18; C S Vander Noot to MOD as MA/VCDS(PAL), December 7; C N C Williams RA to RARDE(PE)(AE) as GSO1, December 18.
RETIREMENT
COLONEL G M Chirnside, Nov 1.

Royal Air Force
AIR COMMODORE (ACTING RANK AIR VICE-MARSHAL): J B Duxbury to RCDS as Senior RAF Member, December 19.
AIR COMMODORES: J F Wood to MOD as DPS 2(RAF), December 19; F M Holmes to MOD as DWSE(RAF), December 14.
GROUP CAPTAINS (ACTING RANK AIR COMMODORE): C H Stonor to MOD as IPS(RAF), December 19; M T Devid to MOD as D of S and PM(RAF), December 14; J E Nevill to HQSTC as AO in C GTTO, December 19.
GROUP CAPTAINS: P H Troughton to HQ 11 Gp as Sta Cdr, December 7; C P Baker to MOD (APD) as DDSE 11, December 7; D G Bressner to RCDS on DS, December 14; M J Allistone to RCDS on DS, December 14.
WING COMMANDERS (ACTING RANK GROUP CAPTAIN): P L Guin to RAF Staff College Bracknell as DCSI and Gp Dr, December 14; C M Carlstie to OASC as President Air Board, December 18; A F C Hunter to RAF Odiham as Stn Cdr, December 18.
WING COMMANDERS: J A Carter to RAF Brize Norton as OC Admin Wg, December 14; D J Noyce to HQSTC as Sq, December 14; N J Longshaw to MOD Harrogate as SMS1(RAF), December 14; A M Ferguson to MOD as Sqn 65 Air, December 14; R J Baker to MOD as Wpns Eng 1, December 14; C F Dixon to SCC Hendon as Wg Cdr 3D, November 18; P Goodman to RAF Northolt as OC 32 Sqn, December 14; A M Bowman to RAF Marham as OC 37 Sqn, December 14; M J Middlemast to RAF Stanmore Park as Stn Cdr, December 14; W Massey to RAF Decimomannu as Stn Cdr, December 14; H W Hall to HQ 38 Gp as Wg Cdr AT Pol & Trg, December 14; G Brindle to RAF Wittlesham as OC 56 Sqn, December 18; C T Moore to MTS Drpd as DS, December 18; B Ardley to RAF Police School Newton as OC December 14; R J Tassale to RAF Cottesmore as SDO December 11.
SQUADRON LEADERS (ACTING RANK WING COMMANDER): S B Lee to RAF Staff College Bracknell on DS, December 18; I G J Hughes to RAF Finningley as OC SAR Wg, November 18; A V Burgess to RAF Rudloe Manor as OC Pan (SB), November 26; C Morris to HQSTC as EE RS & Pn, December 14.

OBITUARY

MR LAURENCE KING

Noted church architect

Mr Laurence King, OBE, FSA, FRIBA who died at his Essex home on December 9, aged 74, was an architect who not only designed — mainly in an extension of the Georgian tradition — a large number of new churches in London and the Home Counties, but restored several churches of note, among them St Magnus, London Bridge, and St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; both supreme examples of Wren's work, which he lovingly brought back into use after damage in the last war.

Laurence Edward King, born on June 28, 1907, the son of Frederick and Flora King, was trained as an architect at the Bartlett School, the University of London, studying under A. E. (later Sir Albert) Richardson who developed in his young pupil a love and understanding of honest Georgian building.

The war of 1939-45 interrupted King's first essay in private practice but in 1946 (following Army service, mainly in the Middle East) he reestablished himself as a practising architect while also resuming the teaching and tutoring in which he had engaged prewar at the Royal College of Art. In 1951 he served on the Archbishop's Commission on the repair of churches; this led to appointment as consulting architect to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and, as a talent for sensitive restoration of the work of others became recognised, to a host of commissions for repair of damaged buildings — among them Walsingham church (destroyed by fire in 1961) and the Grey Coat Hospital.

In the educational field he designed new buildings for Eastbourne and Framlingham Colleges and the United Westminster Schools, as well as extensions to Sutton Valence, Emanuel School, and his old school Brentwood.

But ecclesiastical architecture was his first love; he was consultant to Exeter cathedral and to the Diocese of Gibraltar, and he designed churches in a number of new housing areas, Leigh-on-sea, south Ruislip, Perivale and Letchworth among them. His major extension of Blackburn Cathedral was consecrated in 1978. In association with Arthur Knapp-Fisher, he restored the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, while in addition to work for other religious communities, he rebuilt St Saviour's Priory in Haggerston, north London.

Amid these many commissions, Laurence King made time to serve on a number of bodies — among them the General Synod, the Council for Places of Worship, and the Worship and Arts Association, of which he was chairman. He enjoyed his connections with the City of London of which he was Freeman, as a liveryman of the Barbers' and Needlemakers companies; and he had been chairman of the Cordwainer Club. He was FSA, FSA (Scotland), and a valued member of the Art Workers Guild. He was appointed OBE in 1971. He was unmarried.

Laurence King will be remembered as an architect who, probably without rival in his field, worked tirelessly all his professional life to restore to the communities of London and the Home Counties their heritage of ecclesiastical buildings and, by new works, to add to their store.

MR JOHN MANSBRIDGE

Mr John Mansbridge, the artist, author and university lecturer, died on December 5 at the age of 80.

Mansbridge was the son of Dr Albert Mansbridge, CH, founder of the Workers' Education Association in 1903, the Seafarers' Education Service and the Central Library for Students which became the National Central Library. Many of the pioneers of adult education, such as Bishop Charles Gore, William Temple (later Archbishop of Canterbury), Professor Richard Tawney and Margaret McMillan, exercised a considerable influence on his childhood. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School when J. L. Paton was High Master and studied under Profesor Tonks at the Slade School of Art.

In 1924 he made drawings of the first Labour Cabinet and in 1929 joined the staff of Goldsmiths' College of Art. He became a well known portrait painter and was commissioned to paint many figures in society, Anglican prelates, politicians and writers, and, during the last war, Battle of Britain fighter pilots.

He exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, the Royal Society of British Artists and the New English Art Club. Much of his work is in national and private collections and there are several of his pictures in the National Portrait Gallery and the Imperial War Museum.

After the war he was senior lecturer in painting at Goldsmiths' College of Art until he retired in 1966 and he also lectured in the history of art and architecture for the University of London Extra-Mural Department. Perhaps some of his best work was a series of panels of classical historical events which were a feature of the décor of ships of the Blue Funnel Line.

Ten years of research and preparation led to the publication in 1969 of the unusual book, *Graphic History of Architecture* — which was received with great approval from the critics for its vision and enthusiasm. Until within two weeks of his death his last years were spent mainly on a mammoth work entitled *Ways of Seeing: The Recreation of Man* — an illustrated philosophical view of man's progress through the creative and scientific world from the beginning of recorded history to the present time.

John Mansbridge was a deeply reflective man of enormous intellect, an illustrious teacher and a gifted artist. Young people especially revered him and would flock to his studio for inspiration and encouragement. He loved English literature and always had a quotation from his favourite poets to suit the occasion.

MR I. E. N. BESLEY

Mr I. E. N. Besley, who died on December 10, was appointed to the staff of the Cambridge University Appointments Board in 1964, with responsibility for helping those interested in educational posts. In this job he succeeded the late A. L. Maycock, by then a legendary figure to hundreds of Cambridge men.

An Oxford graduate, Besley had to carry on the Maycock tradition, while at the same time introducing administrative changes to meet the changing demands on the service, particularly those which accompanied the great increase in the number and range of schools recruiting staff with the help of the board.

Ian Evelyn Napier Besley was a good administrator, with a precise and orderly mind, and he quickly took the measure of his job and tackled it efficiently. He came to the post after 15 years as headmaster of Hamond's Grammar School, Swaffham.

Before moving to Hamond's he had been senior German master and house tutor at Aldenham School from 1946 to 1949, and on the staff of Ardingly College, his own school, from 1937 to 1945 (though for much of that period he was in the Army). He therefore had knowledge of different kinds of school, and he set about the task of widening that knowledge further. After ten years in the Cambridge post, he returned to the classroom for a few weeks to gain direct experience in comprehensive schools.

During the Second World War Besley served in the Intelligence Corps and reached the rank of acting lieutenant-colonel. From 1945 to 1946 he was head of the co-ordination section of the education branch of the Control Commission for Germany. He had known Germany before the war, and indeed had spent a year at Freiburg University before going up to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1932 to read modern languages.

He enjoyed the opportunities which the war placed before him and would probably have been happy as a professional soldier, but there was no doubt about his commitment to teaching and to the needs of the teaching profession. Hamond's though small, had a good academic record under his guidance.

His own interests were wide. He was a keen churchman, and had served as a churchwarden and a lay reader. He played golf, and as an undergraduate had been something of an all-round games player. He had a dry wit, and wrote well, contributing essays quite frequently to the *Eastern Daily Press*.

He leaves a widow, Susan, three sons and a daughter.

MR STANLEY MUIR

Mr Robert Stanley Muir, a senior member of *The Times* editorial staff has died at the age of 56. Before coming to work in London for Times Newspapers Limited 22 years ago, he had worked as a sub-editor on the *South Wales Argus* in Newport and the *South Wales Echo* in Cardiff.

He was also for a time a reporter on the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*. To his work on *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* — he worked on the news desk at the latter for sixteen years — he brought those qualities of quiet dedication, gentleness, kindly humour and infectious patience which won him the admiration and affection of all who worked alongside him.

In his years on *The Times*, he was an example to all his younger, less experienced, colleagues on the home sub-editors' desk. Always uncomplaining, conscientious and cheerful, he combined the sub-editorial skills of accuracy and the speedy use of plain English with a versatility which he displayed in all the variety of jobs asked of him.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

Moreover. . Miles Kington

Protest groups were out and about early in the streets today, demonstrating against the Freeze and condemning Mrs Thatcher's commitment to Britain's independent snow.

"Britain has stockpiled enough snow to make 38 billion snowballs", says the Revffolke-Singer, chairman of CDN (Campaign for Defrosting Now). "I can't see this cutting much ice with the Russians, who have enough permafrost to blanket the whole of Britain. We say the Salt talks have gone on long enough; let's get the salt on the roads now!"

Heavy falls of grit throughout the Home Counties have rendered many roads impassable (Our Motoring Correspondent reports) and motorists are asked especially to avoid Deepdale Avenue, SW 36, where Our Motoring Correspondent is trying to manoeuvre out into the main road from his drive, which landed in deep rough after a bad slice from the fourteenth tee.

British Rail report that trains are arriving anything up to three hours late at Waterloo, which is a considerable improvement on normal. To safeguard departures, in a short but moving ceremony this morning the 7.40 to Folkestone was renamed the 11.10 to Folkestone and left at 12.05 for Guildford.

On Eastern Region, meanwhile, Shenfield station has been declared a disaster area and food parcels and blankets have flooded in from as far afield as Bangladesh and Turkey.

Turkey has flooded in from the Far Afield Turkey Farm, Norfolk, and the winner of this year's Turkey Nouveau Race is the City Café behind St Paul's Cathedral, who are proudly presenting their annual Christmas Lunch Special of Tomato soup, Turkey and two veg, mince pie and tinsel pudding for only £1.75, service not included, oh, thanks luv, just pop it in the box marked STAFF GRAUTITIES, yes well, Signor Ferrari is not the best speller in the world, I'm afraid.

Chris Godbolt, who is the best speller in the world, will be signing copies of his book, *It's Two N's Millennium*, at W. H. Smith's Shenfield, today. Other seasonal events include the Entryphone Carol singing Contest; the arrest of Father Christmas in Oxford Street; the arrival of the 11.10 to Folkestone at Clapham Junction; and the official opening of the Christmas Road Works in Marylebone Road, whose twinkling lights and gay, snow-decked lumps of concrete annually attract thousands of motorists.

Don't forget that today is the last posting day to Aunt Joyce, cousin Lawrence, the Arts Council and those nice people we met at the motorway service area where the Space Invaders had broken down and the children were sick, you remember. It's also about a month to the Chinese New Year (next year is the Year of the Gerbil), so bean sprouts and water chestnuts should be bedded out now, with a fine mulch of soya sauce. Spray regularly with monosodium glutamate, to avoid taste buds forming.

Booking has also just started for the annual Whitehall Christmas pantomime *Humpty Dumpty*, starring William Whitelaw ("a riot a minute"), and there is another month in which to visit the Japanese Wrapping Paper bibition at the National Gallery. Meanwhile, we've just heard that the 11.10 to Folkestone has arrived safely at Shenfield station, where the train will divide into two parts; the front four coaches for Burnham-on-Crouch, and the rear eight for British Week in Osaka.

We would like to apologize for the arrival of Christmas; every attempt is being made to rectify the error. Now, here are the main points of the apology again.

By arrangement with Britishail Announcements Ltd.

Birthdays today

Mr Stan Smith, the tennis player, who is 35.

Vice-Admiral Sir York Beverley, 86; Sir Thomas Bromley, 70; Viscount Chaplin, 75; General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, 68; Major-General F. C. C. Graham, 73; Sir Anthony Kershaw, MP, 66; Judge Sir Ian Lewis, 56; Mr Berthold Lubetkin, 80; Mr Alberto Morrocco, 64; Mr C. R. Morris, MP, 55; Dame Ruth Railton, 66; Miss Lee Remick, 46; Colonel Sir Cennydd Traherne, 71; Professor Alfred Ubbelohde, 74.

Honorary fellowship for Queen Mother

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Chancellor of the University of London from 1955 to 1980, has accepted the London School of Economics' invitation to become an honorary fellow.

University news

Oxford

Elections
ST HILDA'S COLLEGE: Honorary fellowships: Miss Doris M Odlum, BA (Lond), MA, and Mrs Betty Radice, BA.
ST PETER'S COLLEGE: Demus scholarships: J R Davies, exhibitioner, formerly of Winchester College (English); Y Qiu, commoner, formerly of Nan Yang secondary school (engineering science); D J C Wingfield, exhibitioner, formerly of Bishop of Llandaff HS, Cardiff (physiological sciences); Carl Albert Award for 1980: M J Carey, scholar of college.

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INTRODUCING
SOBRANIE
VIRGINIA BLEND

CIGARETTES OF INTERNATIONAL LENGTH
BY SOBRANIE OF LONDON

SOBRANIE
VIRGINIA BLEND
MILD CIGARETTES
International Length

SB07

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR Manufacturer's estimate
DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
THINK FIRST - MOST DOCTORS DON'T SMOKE

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 7. Dealings End, Dec 22. § Contango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 4

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock outstanding £	Stock	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int only Yield	Gross Red Yield
SHORTS					
981m	Treas 8½% 1980-82	99½	●..	8.323	11.338
400m	Treas 3½ 1982	97 29/32	+1/32	3.063	14.374
600m	Treas 14% 1982	99¾	-¼	14.053	15.217
800m	Treas 8¼% 1982	95½	●-½	8.563	15.376
1600m	Exch 9¼% 1982	95½	-⅛	9.684	15.839
800m	Exch 8¾% 1983	94¼	●-1/16	9.289	14.792
1000m	Exch 3½ 1983	90¼	+¼	3.334	11.963
1350m	Treas. 12½ 1983	96¾	-1/16	12.483	15.439
800m	Treas 9¼% 1983	93⅝	-1/16	10.001	14.714
800m	Exch 13½% 1983	97½	-1/16	13.865	15.106
900m	Exch 10% 1983	82¼	-1/16	10.823	14.533
500m	Fund 8¼% 1983-84	87	●..	6.323	12.764
1100m	Exch 11¼% 1984	92⅝	-1/16	12.177	15.437
1100m	Exch 14% 1984	97½	-1/16	14.412	15.487
1250m	Exch 3% 1984	80½	●-¼	3.737	12.216
1050m	Treas 12% 1984	92	-1/16	13.046	15.627
1099m	Treas 15½ 1985	97⅞	-1/16	15.388	15.936
1000m	Exch Cv 12% 1985	90	-1/16	13.331	16.040
1250m	Treas 3% 1985	73½	-1	4.142	13.196
1100m	Treas 11½% 1985	88⅝	●..	13.048	16.005
1300m	Exch 13¾% 1985	89¾	-2	13.643	15.838
1150m	Exch 11¾% 1986	86⅝	-2	13.530	16.145
500m	Treas 3% 1986	69½	-¾	4.380	12.457
1150m	Treas 13% 1986	97¾	-1⅛	13.501	15.917
MEDIUMS					
600m	Treas 8½% 1984-86	81	●..	10.494	14.310
500m	Exch 13½% 1987	96¼	-1/16	14.468	15.868
339m	Fund 6½% 1985-87	74	-1⅛	8.665	13.868
1250m	Treas 12% 1987	86	-1⅛	14.196	16.102
1000m	Treas 7½% 1985-88	76¼	-1½	10.570	14.444
1062m	Trans 3% 1978-88	60⅝	●-1½	4.954	11.824
600m	Treas 11½% 1989	83½	-2¼	14.373	16.290
691m	Treas 5% 1986-89	67⅞	-1⅛	8.052	12.793
850m	Treas 13% 1990	96¼	● ..	14.851	15.808
1009m	Exch 12½% 1990	95¾	-2	15.055	16.313
600m	Treas 8¾% 1987-90	70½	●-1¼	11.684	14.943
2000m	Treas 11¾% 1991	78¾	● ..	14.826	16.220
400m	Fund 8¾% 1987-91	59⅝	-1⅛	9.773	13.706
500m	Exch 11% 1991	76¼	-2¼	14.602	16.060
850m	Treas 12¾% 1992	88⅝	-2¼	15.325	16.158
600m	Treas 10% 1992	74¼	-2¼	14.048	15.783
1150m	Exch 13¾% 1992	83¾	-2¼	15.291	16.203
1000m	Exch 13½% 1992	82	-2¼	15.686	16.267
1100m	Treas 13½% 1993	85¾	● ..	15.725	15.898
600m	Fund 6% 1993	56⅝	-1⅛	10.869	13.808
1250m	Treas 13¾% 1993	85¾	-2¼	15.700	16.129
600m	Treas 14½% 1994	95½	-2¼	15.917	16.194
1000m	Exch 13¾% 1994	86¾	-2¼	15.836	16.306
1250m	Exch 13½% 1994	84½	-2¼	15.862	16.179
900m	Treas 9% 1994	67	-1¼	13.548	14.944
1500m	Treas 13% 1995	82½	-2¼	15.468	16.150
214m	Gas 3% 1990-95	43½	-1	6.969	11.395
600m	Exch 10¼% 1995	73¼	-2	14.892	15.878
900m	Treas 12¾% 1995	83¼	-2½	15.475	15.944
800m	Treas 14% 1996	93¾	-2½	15.942	16.197
600m	Treas 9% 1992-96	67¼	-1⅛	13.822	14.997
1350m	Treas 15¼% 1996	96¼	-2½	16.019	16.131
800m	Exch 13¾% 1996	86¼	-2½	15.529	15.868
LONGS					
1000m	Treas IL 2% 1996	83	-1½	2.180	2.612
41m	Rdmptn 3% 1986-96	44½	-1½	6.871	10.641
1750m	Treas 13¾% 1997	90	-2½	15.611	15.901
1000m	Exch 10½% 1997	74¼	-2	14.784	15.490
800m	Treas 8¾% 1997	65¾	-1½	13.784	14.802
1000m	Exch 15% 1997	94½	-2½	16.149	16.234
1000m	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	55	-1⅛	12.438	15.895
1100m	Treas 15½% 1998	99¼	-2½	15.626	16.071
2100m	Exch 12% 1998	78½	-2½	15.419	15.797
1000m	Treas 9½% 1999	65¼	● ..	14.120	14.822
2900m	Exch 13¾% 1999	81½	-2½	15.514	15.843
800m	Treas 10½% 1999	71¼	-2¼	14.817	15.343
1050m	Treas 13% 2000	82¾	● ..	15.478	15.686
1250m	Treas 14% 1998-01	89¼	-2½	15.635	15.855
1550m	Exch 12% 1999-02	82¾	-2½	15.439	15.656
1800m	Treas 12¾% 2000-03	92½	-2½	15.754	15.819
800m	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	78½	-2½	15.150	15.333
443m	Fund 3½% 1999-04	33⅝	● ..	10.310	12.102
2050m	Treas 12½% 2003-05	82¼	-2½	15.317	15.434
1000m	Treas IL 2% 2006	83¼	-1½	2.249	1.686
600m	Treas 8% 2002-06	60¼	-1¼	13.635	15.895
2500m	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	81⅝	-2½	15.245	15.341
1250m	Treas 13½% 2004-08	90½	-2½	15.397	15.438
1000m	Treas 8½% 2008-12	44½	-1½	12.791	13.149
600m	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	39½	-1¼	13.706	13.816
1000m	Exch 12% 2013-17	81½	-2¼	14.716	14.738
381m	Consols 4%	28⅝	-¼	14.373	..
1909m	War Ln 3½%	26¼	-¼	13.343	..
218m	Conv 3½%	32½	-¼	11.258	..
58m	Treas 3%	21½	-¼	14.403	..
273m	Consols 2½%	18¼	-¼	13.668	..
478m	Treas. 2½% Aft 75	18¼	-¼	14.270	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
20m	Aust 8½% 81-82	98¼	● ..	8.636	15.304	
10m	Aust 8% 81-83	85¾	-¼	7.094	14.966	
5m	S Africa 5½% 77-83	56¼	-¼	6.670	16.519	
—	Hungary 4½% 1924	37	..	..	..	
—	Ireland 7½% 81-83	88½	● ..	..	..	
—	Japan Ass 4% 1910	230	..	..	..	
—	Japan 6% 83-88	66	..	..	..	
4m	Kenya 5% 78-82	98¾	..	5.134	20.573	
7m	Malaya 7½% 78-82	96½	+¼	7.973	17.600	
14m	N Z 7½% 80-82	97¾	● ..	13.470	15.431	
12m	N Z 7½% 83-86	74½	-½	10.040	15.550	
—	Peru 6% Ass	150	..	..	..	
20m	S Rhd 3½% 65-70	138	+6	..	..	
8m	S Rhd 4½% 67-92	62	+3	..	..	
—	Spanish 4%	40½	..	..	..	
4m	Tang 5½% 78-82	98¼	..	5.618	19.244	
—	Uruguay 3½%	34	..	..	..	
—	Zimbabwe Ann 81-86	336	+10	..	..	34.954

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
26m	L C C 3% 1929	19½	-¼	15.700	..	
25m	L C C 5% 60-63	88	-¼	5.679	15.411	
30m	L C C 5¼% 62-64	79¾	-¼	6.890	15.200	
25m	L C C 5½% 65-67	86¼	-¼	8.293	14.646	
25m	L C C 6% 65-90	58	-1⅛	11.503	15.253	
40m	G L C 6¾% 90-92	57¾	-1	12.117	15.569	
26m	G L C 9½% 80-82	95¼	-⅛	9.963	15.663	
75m	G L C 12½% 1982	98¼	-¼	12.646	15.476	
100m	G L C 12½% 1983	95¾	-¼	13.039	15.483	
16m	C of L 9½% 80-82	95	..	6.838	15.617	
17m	Ag Mt 7¾% 81-84	80¼	-1	8.641	17.008	
20m	Ag Mt 7¾% 81-83	59	-1	13.528	15.899	
12m	Ag Mt 6¾% 85-90	50	-1	11.535	15.774	
20m	Glasgow 9¼% 80-82	94⅞	-½	9.741	15.402	
20m	Met Water B 8¾-83	86	-1	11.885	14.283	
20m	N I 7½% 82-84	83	-1	8.431	15.888	
8m	N I Elec 6½% 81-83	89½	-½	7.359	16.334	
10m	Swark 6¾% 83-86	71¼	-¼	9.404	15.076	

DOLLAR STOCKS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
298.2m	Brascan	£11⅝	+¼	71.1g	6.3	21.9
—	BP Canada	£15¼	+1	..	..	
1,357.1m	Can Pac Ord	£18 3/16	+3/16	78.6	4.2	6.1
362.2m	El Paso	£13¾	+1½	41.7	3.0	25.8
—	Exxon Corp	£16¾	+¼	..	..	
1,294.1m	Fluor	£15¾	+½	34.6	2.3	13.2
—	Bollinger	£13 1/16	+⅛	..	..	
411.6m	Bud Bay Oil	£22½	+½	26.9	1.3	42.3
—	Husky Oil	505	-20	..	..	
582.8m	INCO	£11⅝	..	11.0	1.5	6.5
256.3m	IU Int	£7¼	+¼	4.7	0.6	2.5
344.9m	Kaiser Alum	£8½	-1/16	38.4	7.2	3.0
28.0m	Massey-Ferg	95	+13	..	..	
—	Norton Simon	931	+29	60.5	0.1	..
—	Pan Canadian	£30¼	+1½	..	..	
—	Steep Rock	207	+12	..	..	
—	Trans Can P	£11⅛	+⅛	..	..	
—	US Steel	£15½	+¼	..	..	
672.8m	Zapata Corp	£18¾	+¼	16.6	0.9	..

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
11.8m	Alexr Discount	242	+3	24.3	10.0	8.5
132.0m	Allied Irish	95	-3	9.6	10.1	3.2
14.0m	Ambascher B	14¼	-¼	0.2	1.5	19.0
587.0m	ANZ Grp	338	+8	16.8	5.0	7.2
1,795.0m	Bank America	£12	-½	70.1	5.8	6.1
112.9m	Bk of Ireland	258	-10	13.9	5.4	3.5
402.7m	Bk Leumi Israel	5	..	0.1	1.2	15.6
7,300.0m	Bk Leumi UK	240	..	14.5	6.0	14.0
152.2m	Bk of Scotland	467	+6	27.9	6.0	3.8
1,246.7m	Barclays Bank	441	+17	28.2	6.4	3.6
24.4m	Brown Shipley	225	..	9.3	4.1	18.5
22.7m	Cater Allen Hldgs	230	-10	23.0	10.0	..
7,200.0m	Cater Allen Plc	270	h	35.7	13.2	10.3
114.0m	Charterhse Grp	75	+3	6.7	8.9	8.4
921.7m	Chase Man	£28¾	+1 1/16	129	4.5	7.8
1,835.3m	Citicorp	£14	+¼	69.3	5.0	7.8
4,942.0m	Clive Discount	23	..	..	..	4.4
—	Commerzbank	£11½	-½	37.0	1.2	41.6
240.1m	Cp Fn Paris	£18⅝	-⅛	255	14.1	7.3
179.0m	CC De France	£13⅞	..	140	10.7	12.5
6,370.0m	Dunbar Grp	490	+5	9.8	2.0	17.9
38.4m	First Nat Fin	31	-1½	..	..	4.3
41.5m	Gerrard & Nat	278	-7	20.0	..	7.2
6,110.0m	Gillett Bros	224	..	23.3	11.3	10.7
65.6m	Grindlays Hldgs	196	-2	5.9	3.0	8.8
63.6m	Guinness Peat	98	+10	5.7	5.8	.
30.0m	Hambros £2	£15	● +½	67.5	4.5	10.4
133.2m	Do Ord	153	● -2	6.8	4.4	10.5
111.3m	Hill Samuel	163	+5	10.4	6.4	9.4
2,152.7m	Hong K & Shang	128	+3	5.6b	4.1	12.3
8,573.0m	Jessel Toynbee	65	+1	7.1	11.0	..
6,387.0m	Joseph L.	243	● ..	14.9	6.1	10.5
78.2m	King & Shaxson	68	..	6.2	9.3	9.0
121.3m	Kleinwort Ben	255	+1	12.8	5.7	6.4
766.0m	Lloyds Bank	431	-18	26.0	6.0	3.2
94.2m	Mercury Secs	212	+5	10.0	4.7	7.4
545.1m	Midland	330	-6	31.4	9.5	3.5
28.4m	Minster Assets	77	+1	5.9	7.6	10.3
442.2m	Nat of Aust	172	+5	13.2	7.7	5.6
916.5m	Nat W'minster	386	-19	31.3	8.1	2.8
23.2m	Odiemne	£46½	+1	373	8.1	8.9
13.2m	Rea Bros	90	..	2.6	2.9	18.7
946.7m	Royal of Can	£11½	+¼	54.3	4.7	6.8
465.3m	Ryl Bk Scot Grp	180	● -17	7.7	4.3	6.1
68.4m	Schroders	425	..	15.0	3.5	8.5
3,220.0m	Seccombe Mar	230	..	28.7	11.2	9.5
15.2m	Smith St Aubyn	141	-2	15.0	10.6	..
580.5m	Standard Chart	672	+8	49.0	7.3	5.3
44.6m	Union Discount	448	-15	32.8	7.3	12.4
10.6m	Wintrust	126	● -1	4.6	3.6	9.1

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
413.5m	Allied-Lyons	68½	● -7	7.1	10.4	6.6
652.9m	Bass	204	-2	13.5	6.6	7.1
100.3m	Bell A.	144	-6	6.8	4.7	7.5
53.5m	Boddingtons	159	-3	4.6	2.9	18.7
33.1m	Brown M.	162	r -3	9.1b	5.6	9.7
32.1m	Bulmer HP Hldgs	310	+17	14.2	4.6	9.1
9,785.0m	Devenish	295	+13	10.7	4.0	11.9
664.6m	Distillers	183	-5	15.4	8.4	5.6
130.5m	Greenall	128	● -7	4.9	3.9	10.1
58.4m	Greene King	282	-2	9.0	3.2	15.4
107.4m	Guinness	61	-2	7.0	11.5	4.8
14.7m	Hardys & H'sons	368	+2	16.7	4.5	15.0
47.2m	Highland	..	-4	3.7	4.8	10.8
29.4m	Invergordon	151	-1	5.7	3.8	7.3
22.9m	Irish Distillers	50	● -1	3.4	6.9	4.4
31.7m	Marston	62	-1	2.6	4.1	10.0
139.4m	Scot & Newcastle	49½	-3½	5.2	10.4	5.5
1,667.3m	Seagram	£31	+1 1/16	79.1	2.6	20.2
447.0m	SA Breweries	201	..	17.0	8.5	6.3
2,712.0m	Tomatin	35	-3	0.1c	0.3	..
45.4m	Vaux	120	..	10.2	7.3	7.1
331.7m	Whitbread 'A'	137	-2	9.8	7.1	6.4
15.3m	Do B	133	-2	9.8	7.0	6.5
232.1m	Whitbread Inv	96	-4	6.4	6.6	21.8
67.1m	Wolverhampton	208	-8	7.9	3.8	12.0

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
26.7m	AAH	98	..	6.7	7.2	8.4
4,783.000	AB Electronics	123	+5	5.7	4.6	..
38.7m	AE PLC	39½	-½	..	..	..
56.1m	AGB Research	334	-3	7.9b	3.4	23.9
1,170,000	Al Ind. Prod	12	..	0.0c	0.1	..
62.2m	APV Hldgs	225	-3	12.9	5.7	5.4
12.6m	Aaronson Bros.	46	+3	3.0	6.5	15.9
23.3m	Acrow 'A'	38	..	1.1e	2.8	..
16.6m	Advance Serv	86	..	4.7	8.4	7.3
38.4m	Adwest Group	158	+10	10.7	5.7	10.8
8,000,000	Aerovt & Gen	200	-20	5.9	2.5	13.5
—	AKZO	490	..	..	..	..
1,785,000	Allen W. G.	48	..	4.4	9.3	10.7
98.2m	Allied Colloids	135	-2	3.9	2.9	22.8
2,068,000	Allied Plant	13½	-½	..	..	2.7
33.0m	Amal Metal	358	..	5.6	1.5	11.9
2,546,000	Amber Day	16½	+½	..	..	..
23.3m	Amstrad	250	+15	5.6	2.3	17.0
42.4m	Anderson Strath	89½	-1	5.9	6.5	10.0
12.3m	Anglia TV 'A'	95	+2	7.4	7.8	3.5
220.5m	Anglo Amer Ind	£13	..	85.3	6.6	4.1
4,826,000	Aquascutum 'A'	27	..	2.9	10.9	9.0
39.9m	Argyll Foods	95	+1	4.6	4.9	13.2
10.4m	Ash & Lacy	250	+10	17.9	7.1	6.4
10.9m	Ass Book	306	..	11.7	3.9	19.6
506.8m	Ass Brit Food	142	-6	5.4	3.9	7.4
32.5m	Ass Comm 'A'	80	..	..	..	..
12.3m	Ass Fisheries	70	+1	1.4	2.0	25.5
21.2m	Ass Leisure	51	-1	7.5	9.3	5.8
57.7m	Ass News	198	-1	14.9	7.5	5.3
5,462,000	Ass Paper	42	-1	2.9b	6.8	9.2
1,792,000	Atkins Bros	56	● -3	7.1	12.8	6.9
583,000	Audiotronic	5	+½	..	..	..
525,000	Do Pref	3½	-¼	..	..	..
57.0m	Ault & Wiborg	27	..	1.7	6.3	..
3,615,000	Aurora Hldgs.	17	..	..	..	..
1,102,000	Austin E.	39	-2	1.2	7.2	..
29.3m	Automotive Pd	53	+1	2.9	5.4	..
6,969,000	Avon Rubber	105	+7	4.3	4.1	..
1,228.7m	B.A.T. Ind	338	-8	30.0	8.9	5.2
20.1m	BBA Grp	35	..	2.5	7.1	..
194.0m	BET Dfd	130	-3	10.8a	8.3	6.3
515.2m	BICC	274	-8	14.8b	5.4	11.5
63.0m	BL Ltd	16	-2	..	..	26.3
487.2m	BOC	148	-2	6.9	4.7	11.1
309.0m	BPB Ind	322	● -2	13.6	4.2	7.5
32.7m	BPC	27½	..	..	..	..
1,260.000	BPM Hldgs 'A'	80	..	8.3	9.2	7.5
9,866.000	BSG Int	15	+½	0.1	0.9	..
90.9m	BSR Ltd	79	..	0.7	0.9	..
815.9m	BTR Ltd	340	-14	11.3	3.3	17.9
69.7m	Babcock Int	89	+1	10.0	12.2	10.3
2,400.000	Baggeridge Brk	80	..	5.4	8.9	12.4
3,160.000	Bailey C.H. Ord	5¾	..	..	..	6.9
31.3m	Baird W.	150	● +4	18.5b	9.7	4.8
26.9m	Baker Perkins	81	+2	7.3	9.0	28.6
20.4m	Bambers Stores	57	-3	2.4	4.3	7.8
3,354,000	Banro Cons	62	..	4.3	6.9	8.0
1,016.4m	Do A	418	..	17.9	4.3	10.7
2,761.000	Grippertrods	110	+6	7.5	6.8	2.7
274.9m	GKN	166	-1	11.4	6.9	..
42.0m	H.A.T. Grp	68½	-3	3.9b	5.7	10.3
10.2m	HTV	107	+1	14.3	14.1	8.3
50.6m	Habitat	140	+4	11.1b	3.7	24.6
31.1m	Haden	203	-10	9.2	4.6	7.4
20.7m	Hall Eng	151	-2	10.9	7.2	3.8
69.3m	Hall M.	203	● -8	8.2	3.1	7.9
14.4m	Halma Ltd	78	..	1.7	2.2	19.7
5,073.000	Halstead J.	47	-1½	3.5	8.1	5.7
2,151.000	Hampson Ind	10	-½	1.1	10.7	7.1
13.1m	Hanimex Corp	53	-3	5.4b	10.1	7.5
680.000	Hanover Inv	44	..	2.8	6.0	13.5
649.000	Do NV	42	..	2.6	6.3	12.9
318.0m	Hanson Trust	292	+6	14.3	4.9	9.4
15.1m	Hargreaves Grp	43	● +1	4.6b	10.6	17.1
72.2m	Harris Q'nsway	124	+10	5.7	4.6	26.8
445.1m	Harrison Crod	762	+25	40.0	5.2	17.8
10.1m	Hartwells Grp	86	+6	7.7	8.9	8.3
634.5m	Hawker Sidd	322	+2	13.7	3.9	9.1
1,649.000	Hawkins & T'son	19	-1	1.4c	7.5	..
2,073.000	Hawtin	8	..	0.4	6.0	8.6
6,900.000	Haynes	138	..	11.4	8.3	17.2
1,575.000	Headlam Sims	84	-2	4.1b	7.7	8.2
3,732.000	Helene of Ldn	18	..	2.1	11.7	6.3
822.000	Helical Bar	18	-4	3.9	21.8	3.7
10.8m	Henly's	73	+12	8.6	11.0	..
156.5m	Hepworth Cer	80½	-2½	7.6	7.5	8.7
43.9m	Heywood J.	101	+3	5.4	5.4	14.8
1,846.000	Herman Smith	28	..	0.7	2.5	4.4
6,301.000	Hestair	35	+3	1.4	4.1	9.7
36.4m	Heurden-Stuart	90	..	1.8	6.1	10.9
3,012.000	Hewitt J.	43	..	2.8	5.7	9.4
1,786.000	Hicking P'rcnt	70	+4	8.6	12.2	10.0
36.7m	Hickson Welch	190	+7	10.7	5.6	11.3
10.9m	Higgs & Hill	122	..	7.5	6.2	7.5
3,993.000	Hill & Smith	40	..	4.7	11.7	3.5
1,709.000	Hill C. Bristol	146	h +15	..	..	..
36.7m	Hillards	152	-1	3.8	2.5	12.6
10.6m	Hinton A.	242	● -4	8.6	3.5	12.5
—	Hoechst	385	+10	20.8	7.3	11.1
10.5m	Hollas Grp	82	+1	8.6	10.5	8.1
2,354.000	Hollis Bros	28	..	..	..	..
19.1m	Holt Lloyd	53	-1	4.8	8.9	19.1
16.8m	Home Charm	120	+1	3.8	3.2	10.9
8,730.000	Hoover	73	-5	..	..	..
8,181.000	Do A	67	-6	..	..	..
10.5m	Hopkinsons	94	+2	8.1	8.6	8.0
59.7m	Horizon Travel	288	-7	7.1b	2.5	23.7
257.6m	Hos of Fraser	170	+8	8.4	5.2	11.1
6,910.000	Howard Mach	34	+1	..	..	..
9,361.000	Howard Tenens	59	+1	1.5	2.5	33.0
44.9m	Howden Group	151	..	8.7	5.8	8.7
215.8m	Hudsons Bay	83	-½	53.7	8.9	12.5
3,046.000	Hunt Moscrop	13	-½	1.3	9.9	12.1
14.0m	Huntleigh Grp	98	+6	2.3	2.3	9.5
55.2m	Huntley & Palmer	77	+7	6.3	8.2	7.5
—	Hutch Whamp	173	+8	..	..	..

C — E

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
377.3m	Cadbury Sch	85	-½	6.0	7.1	7.8
4,471.000	Caffyns	138	+6	6.4	4.7	..
1,785.000	C'bread R'by 'A'	34	..	3.7	10.9	3.7
32.4m	Cambridge Elec	90	-2	5.3b	5.9	14.8
37.7m	Can O'seas Pack	215	-5	9.4	4.3	8.7
8,165.000	Canning W.	59	+3	5.7	9.6	8.5
15.5m	Capper Neill	54	-½	6.0	11.1	6.4
1,451.000	Caravans Int	17½	-1½	..	..	..
2,479.000	Carclo Eng	62	..	3.7	5.9	..
5,683.000	Carpets Int	34	-½	..	..	..
20.1m	Carr J. (Don)	61	● -1	2.4	3.9	8.8
31.7m	Carr'ton Viy	12	-½	..	..	..
3,226.000	Causton Sir J.	30	+1	3.1	10.2	4.4
101.3m	Cavoods	218	● -2	5.5	2.5	10.4
8,962.000	Cen & Sheer	14	-½	1.5	10.7	..
1,987.000	Centreway Ltd	113	..	7.1	6.3	..
1,406.000	Ch'mbn & Hill	41	..	3.9	9.6	3.3
658.000	Change Wares	26	-1	..	..	..
29.1m	Chloride Grp	23	-1	..	..	..
18.9m	Christies Int	140	-7	10.0	7.1	9.2
54.0m	Chubb & Sons	89	-4	7.8	8.7	17.4
9,391.000	Church & Co	150	..	11.4	6.4	6.3
3,800.000	Clifords Ord	200	..	6.1	3.0	11.2
12.4m	Do A NV	120	+1	6.1	5.1	6.7
33.7m	Coalite Grp	109	..	6.0	5.5	5.5
161.8m	Coats Patons	58½	-1	5.7	9.8	8.5
8,775.000	Collins W.	213	+5	10.7b	5.0	10.7
15.7m	Do A	183	+5	10.7b	6.6	8.2
14.2m	Comben Grp	35	-2	3.6	10.4	2.8
18.4m	Comb Eng Strs	38	-2	4.5	11.8	25.9
10.0m	Comb Tech	16½	+1½	..	..	..
45.6m	Comet Radio'n	113	-3	5.7	5.1	6.8
4,978.000	Concord R'Flex	45	..	2.9b	6.4	10.4
6,322.000	Conder Int	80	+6	5.0	6.3	6.1
14.4m	Cope Allman	36½	-2	2.9	7.9	..

Frittering away the riches of N Sea, page 15

Business News

THE TIMES Monday December 14 1981

FABRICATION & ASSEMBLY
Machines/Steel structures.
From wood burning stoves to 50 ton trailers.
From fire escapes to complete buildings.
Stanmill Company Ltd.
Whitchurch, Hants.

Lonrho still in market for Fraser

By Anthony Hilton

Lonrho appears not to have given up all hope of taking over House of Fraser, the store chain which owns Harrods, in spite of a Monopolies Commission veto on the deal last week.

Speaking on BBC television's Money Programme yesterday, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director said that his company intended to retain its 30 per cent share holding in Fraser.

He said Lonrho might consider taking action to meet the criticisms of the company listed in the report.

By implication this could clear the way for Lonrho to come back and try again to acquire House of Fraser.

Against this, however, Mr Spicer said Lonrho would give any undertakings it was required to give, to the Government, that it would not seek to acquire control of House of Fraser. But this is a grey area because it remains unclear how far the Government can go, and what it can "require" Lonrho to do.

Mr Spice also said Lonrho had no intention of increasing its influence either directly or indirectly, but he would not be surprised if a Middle Eastern or American buyer snapped up 5 to 7 per cent of th ecompany in the next few weeks and used this to wield effective control.

Talks will be held later this week with Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Consumer Affairs Secretary, who said in the same programme that the Government would "do what was right to carry out the recommendations of the Monopolies Commission".

Mrs Oppenheim said that employment, foreign competition, management and other factors as well as efficiency, all influenced the commission.

Crisis ahead for public spending plan

By David Blake

A new public-spending crisis is building up over the Government's attempts to plan its medium-term expenditure in cash using unrealistic inflation forecasts. Capital spending programmes, which have to be drawn up in advance, have been thrown into confusion by the switch, which began this year. The problems have been highlighted in the past few days by the pay settlement for local government workers, which shows that inflation in the public sector is likely to be far higher in 1982-83 than the Government hoped.

Work is now getting under way to draw up public-spending plans up to 1985. But as a result of a radical rethink in the way the Government decides its spending decisions, officials are not being allowed to use the "funny money" of constant prices which has ruled since the early sixties.

Instead, they have been told that they must draw up plans in cash terms on the assumption that inflation in the public sector will be 6 per cent in 1983-84 and 5 per cent in 1984-85.

Officials in Whitehall see no sign that these inflation forecasts will be met or that the Government has any serious intention of trying to meet them. The six per cent figure for 1983-4 is thought to be particularly unrealistic.

Because the old system of drawing up medium-term plans in "volume" terms has been abandoned as part of the move to cash control, the Government has no coherent way of keeping a check on what it is intending to do in these circumstances. There are signs that some spending departments, such as the health service, feel that matters have reached such a state of chaos that they are committing themselves to ambitious programmes now in the hope that, when the crunch comes from 1983 onwards, there will be money found somehow to pick up the bill.

The problems caused by cash-planning are reawakening interest in the Treasury in the idea that some sort of volume-planning ought to be done.

A sign of the problems of using cash-planning over even very short periods came late last week with the news that local authority manual workers had reached an agreement giving them pay rises of nearly 7 per cent. This is far higher than the 4 per cent which the Government hopes will be the average increase in the public service sector.

If repeated throughout the public sector, the local authorities settlement would mean cuts in the volume of public-spending of about 1 to 1½ per cent to hold its cash value to the £115,000m figure agreed by Government.

Officials in Whitehall feel that the 6 per cent assumption for inflation in the public spending estimates in 1983-84 is more an example of the Government feeling that it has to say that inflation will come down than a serious forecast of what will happen.

They feel that trying to draw up spending plans on that basis will be doubly damaging. It will mean that spending departments do not take their plans seriously because they will think that they are based on unattainable inflation forecasts.

There is also the risk of a new battle over public spending levels next August as the Cabinet adjusts the cash totals up in the light of higher inflation forecasts.

£25m trading deficit limit is forecast

Shipbuilders set to cut losses

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

State-owned British Shipbuilders expects to cut its losses this year to less than £25m. This compares with a £110m deficit two years ago.

Confirmation that the company expects to remain inside the Government set trading loss limit of £25m this year was given by Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman, when he announced a first half loss of £7m.

Last year Shipbuilders recorded a trading loss of £41.4m before intervention fund allocation—the subsidy provided by the Government to narrow the gap between United Kingdom and foreign yard prices.

The continuing reduction of losses will be seized on by ministers as further vindication of their policies aimed at securing greater efficiency in the state industry sector.

Next year, the company is forecasting that its trading losses will be trimmed still further—to around £10m—and the following year the chairman believes it will achieve a financial break-even with a provisional trading loss of possibly £700,000. Mr Atkinson has already indicated that in 1984-85 the Government can expect to receive a repayment on its public dividend capital.

The corporation is still involved in talks with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, over its next corporate plan. Provisionally the Government has allocated an External Financing Limit (EFL) of £125m for next year compared with £150m this year.

There are still uncertainties over the reduction in the flow of orders for the Royal Navy announced in this summer's defence review.

Mr Atkinson and his fellow directors are urging the Government to advance an order for the new Type 23 frigate and to launch a co-ordinated warship selling campaign overseas. Failure to win new warship contracts from the Royal Navy and from foreign governments could threaten jobs in the specialist warship yards by next autumn.

Despite the potential problems on the warship front, the corporation's merchant order book has now risen to its largest since 1978 and valued at close on £800m.

Over the past few months there has been a steady flow of new orders and Mr Atkinson is particularly pleased that a number of new contracts have been placed by former customers of United Kingdom yards who deserted the industry for foreign yards in the 1960s.

The improved financial performance follows the shedding of thousands of jobs since nationalization four years ago.

Productivity last year rose by 15 per cent compared with 1979-80 and industrial disputes in merchant yards have been virtually eliminated.

Investment boost for genetic engineering

By Our Industrial Editor

Two important investment initiatives in the fast-expanding field of biotechnology are planned by the British Technology Group.

A link-up with a large City institution will be announced today and a second project still being discussed may be announced in a few weeks' time.

Today's expected announcement from the BTG, formed as a result of a de facto merger between the National Enterprise Board and the National Research Development Corporation, will involve the creation of a new venture to exploit Britain's growing expertise in genetic engineering.

Funding by the BTG and its City partner will be directed at speeding up development of a small, fast-growing company virtually unknown outside its specialist field. It is understood the company has established a world technological lead in the production of human and animal proteins for medical use.

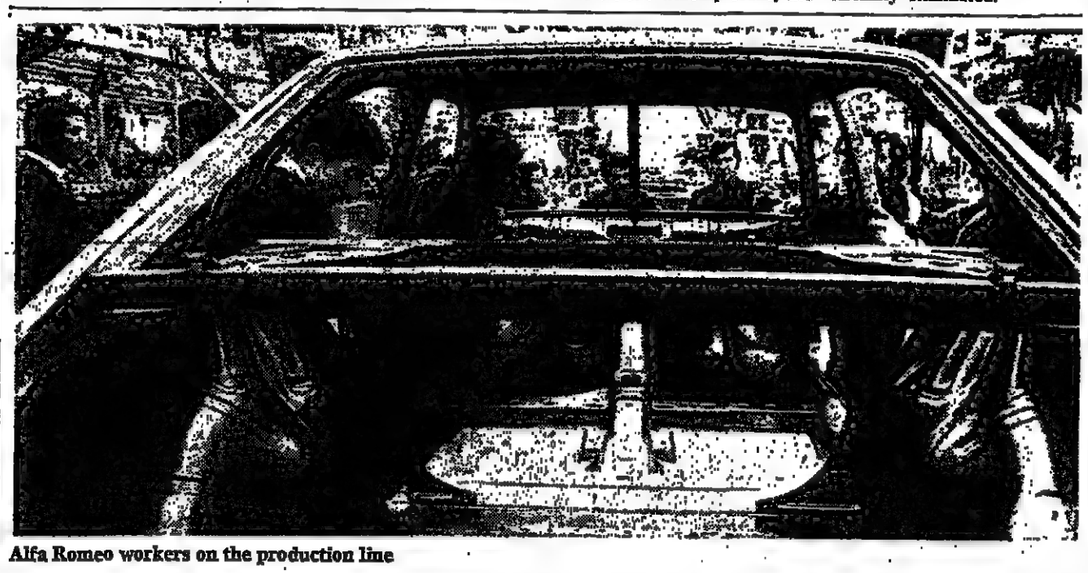
Initial investment will total several million pounds.

The venture is the second significant move by the BTG to form joint partnerships with industry and private sector sources of finance to exploit British advances in biotechnology.

The first was the formation of Britain's first biotechnology company, Celltech, which has been backed by the NEB in partnership with Prudential Assurance, the Midland Bank and British & Commonwealth Shipping.

This partnership has given Celltech access to the laboratory and expertise of the Medical Research Council. Discussions are taking place between the BTG and other potential partners aimed at establishing another consortium similar to Celltech to exploit the technological expertise of the Agricultural Research Council. Announcement of that venture could be made early in the New Year.

Under the chairmanship of industrialist Sir Frederick Wood, the BTG is required by the Government to play a catalytic role in the promotion of high-risk high-technology projects with private sector partners.



Alfa Romeo workers on the production line

Alfa Romeo plans four-month shutdown in 1982

From John Earle, Rome, Dec 13

Alfa Romeo, Italy's second biggest car manufacturer after Fiat, plans to be idle for four months next year, cutting output from its capacity of 280,000 to 180,000.

Signor Ettore Massacesi, chairman of the state owned company, said it "had its back to the wall", and would throughout 1982 work for two months, then close for one month, then resume for a further two months.

In this way one third of production would be lost. During the idle periods, 2,000 people would be retained to man the offices and administrative services and to maintain plant. In addition, he said in an interview with the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, 7,000 workers would be suspended for the whole year.

The group, with its main plants at Milan and near Naples, employs 35,000 in its car sector. It made a small profit of Lire 1,000m (about £430,000) in 1980, when it produced 222,000 cars, but is expected to be heavily in loss this year.

Signor Massacesi said without considering the effects of the market crisis in the western world, he reckoned that inflation alone would cost the company more than Lire 200,000m (£87m) since it did not manage to make its sales prices keep pace with Italian inflation.

Signor Massacesi said he felt tempted to say that there was no future for Alfa Romeo, as the crisis was so enormous. But in fact the thought there was "a half future," thanks to its alliances with other manufacturers. In south Italy it is setting up a plant to produce a new model with Nissan, while in the north it is engaged in talks with Fiat on collaboration over manufacture of components and rationalization of activities.

BIG RISE IN OUTPUT DISPUTED

By Melvyn Westlake

The Government's claim that a big boost to Britain's productivity is providing the foundation for lasting economic recovery is challenged today by a senior City economist.

There is he says, little evidence of a "productivity miracle" and any gains seen in the last couple of years will probably be reversed during the next economic upswing.

In an article in *The Economics Analyst*, published by stockbrokers Simon and Coates, economist Mr Gavin Davies says productivity in the current reccession has been no better than in the recession of 1974-75 and much worse than in 1970-72.

His analysis also shows that, though there was a big and almost continuous labour shakeout between 1970 and 1975, more than half this gain was reversed by 19,79.

The shakeout this time has been only about half of that between 1970 and 1975.

Price freeze call by steel customers

By Our Industrial Editor

Opposition is growing among customers to the planned round of co-ordinated price increases by European steel makers. Steel users and processors are demanding a freeze on increases of 5 per cent, due to be imposed in March and June next year. They have also called for greater consultation with the EEC Commission and steel makers on future price increases.

Representatives of steel users and processors of the European Coal and Steel Community's consultative committee angered by the lack of consultation over next year's increases of 17½ per cent, have lodged an informal statement deploring the commission's handling of the pricing issue.

The co-ordinated listing of prices by members of the European steel makers' cartel in three stages next year represents the key element in the commission's attempt to restore steel industry profitability and to eliminate continuing overcapacity. Customer industries have already strongly opposed both scale and speed.

In their statement to the consultative committee, user industry representatives called for a freeze on the 5 per cent increases, due to be introduced after the 12½ per cent rise is implemented next January. They had previously proposed the January increase be either postponed or substantially trimmed.

The steel industry's customers also want a moratorium on related increases in the cost of steel products extras and have proposed a new framework, which would involve detailed discussions between the commission, producers and users and processors well in advance of future price movements.

Mr John Safford, director of the British Iron and Steel Consumers Council, said yesterday: "We do not want to have difficulties with the producers and the commission, but if they continue to treat us in such a cavalier fashion, we shall continue to make strong protests".

Government set to extend De Lorean guarantee

By David Hewson

Motor industry sources now believe the De Lorean car company will receive an extension of a £10m loan guarantee from the Northern Ireland Office.

A Government announcement, probably in the form of a reply to a written question from a backbencher, is expected within 10 days. It is likely to give the firm breathing space over £10m of loan guarantees from the Government.

But it is not yet known if the Northern Ireland Office will agree to De Lorean's request for a further £5m in public support, which would bring Government aid for the company up to the £80m mark.

The plea for an extension of the loan guarantees, which runs out on December 31, is being considered by the Northern Ireland Office in the knowledge that refusal would throw the future of the firm into jeopardy just when it is starting to get of the ground.

The company employs more than 2,000 people in an area of Belfast where unemployment is high. Industry observers do not believe that the Government, which has spent so heavily on De Lorean, would close the firm for want of an extended loan guarantee.

PLEA FOR CLOTHING EXPORTS

By Rupert Morris

The British clothing industry must anticipate changing trends and export more, with trading support from Government, and financial support from banks, the National Economic Development Council says today.

Competitiveness remains one of the industry's strengths, earning it a £52m trade surplus with the rest of the EEC in 1980, the NEDC reports.

A production drop of 12 per cent in 1980, and the loss of 40,000 jobs in the year ending March 1981 are attributed to three main factors: imports from low-wage countries, low growth and sudden surges in United Kingdom demand, and restrictions in access to overseas markets.

Low-cost imports will remain a problem, and British firms will have to respond by finding new markets overseas.

Mr Basil Feldman, chairman of the clothing EDC promises in a summary of the report entitled "Rally for Success" that the EDC will concentrate on developing market trends in the future.

Silicon chip job fears 'unjustified'

By Clive Cookson

Claims that the introduction of microelectronics has a big impact on employment are not generally justified, according to a report published today by the Policy Studies Institute in London.

The study is the fourth and final part of a nationwide survey of 1,200 manufacturers. More than 70 per cent of the silicon chip users in the sample said the introduction of microelectronics had caused no significant change in employment and 60 per cent expected no impact within the next 18 months.

In companies where there had been an increase or decrease in jobs, the changes were usually less than 10 per cent. Only 1 per cent of the sample had experienced an increase or decrease of more than 40 per cent.

The survey, which was undertaken by Jim Northcott and Petra Rogers with Anthony Zeilinger, did detect an interesting difference between establishments using microelectronics for industrial processes and those installing chips in products.

Among the former, job losses were three times more frequent than job gains. The proportion was reversed among companies with product applications, where three times more companies increased employment. The overall effect was a small net decline, because process applications are much more common.

When manufacturers are asked what are the most important constraints holding up the introduction of microelectronics, they cite the lack of skilled manpower more often than all other problems combined. The people in shortest supply are engineers with microelectronics expertise. The report estimates that Britain needs about 40 per cent more of these engineers immediately.

Microelectronics in Industry: Manpower and Training is available from PSI, 1 Castle Lane, London SW1E 6DR, at £5.00.

Goods ban report due

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on TI Raleigh Industries' refusal to supply bicycles to some cut-price retailers will be published this week. The case is the first investigation under the new Competition Act to run its full course and will be watched by other sectors where discount shops have been refused supplies.

Limitations on supplies have been reported in a wide variety of goods including jewelry, perfume and cosmetics, sports equipment, chinaware and glassware.

☐ An American Government sale of oil and gas leases in Alaska, due to take place on Wednesday, has been postponed until next month because of uncertainties among bidders over the antitrust laws.

Stock Markets
FT Index 520.2
FT Gilts 62.73
FT All Share 309.58
Bargains 12,500

Sterling
$1.8805
Index 89.8
New York: $1.8670

Dollar
Index 107.2
DM 2.2580

Gold
$411.00
New York: $406.70

Money
3 mth sterling 15⅝-15½
3 mth Euro $ 13 11/16-13 9/16
6 mth Euro $ 14 1/16-14 1/16
(Friday's close)

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Policy chief for CBI

Sir Austin Pearce, above, chairman of British Aerospace, is to be chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's key industrial policy committee. Sir Austin, 60, succeeds Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman of Dunlop, in the new year. He brings to the job the unusual experience of having chaired BA in the nationalized sector and through its privatization this year. He was previously chairman and chief executive of Esso Petroleum for eight years from 1972 and a part time member of the National Research Development Corporation from 1973 to 1976.

Singapore banks cut prime rate

Three leading Singapore banking groups have cut their prime rates to 11.75 per cent from today. They are Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation (old rate 12 per cent), Overseas Union Bank (12.5 per cent).

☐ Production by mining companies of coal leased to them by the American Government in the Western United States could rise nearly four-fold to 500 million short tons a year by the early 1990s, compared with 138 million short tons in 1979, a Congressional report said yesterday. It added that this would go a long way to meeting energy needs for decades ahead.

☐ Nigerian oil production has reached 1.5 million barrels a day because of what its National Petroleum Corporation called rising demand.

Respect rules, steel told

The European Economic Community is to ask European steel companies to respect the American trigger price rules fully and the American Government will ask its industry to postpone filing complaints of anti-dumping.

This was understood unofficially yesterday to be the main result of trade talks between the American Government and the EEC which ended in Brussels on Saturday.

Earlier, Mr Roy Denman, the EEC director general of external relations, said the two sides had agreed on efforts to make the trigger-price mechanism function better, but said the Americans did not promise to put pressure on their producers. The two sides had rejected any form of voluntary restraint.

Mr Denman said the two sides had also agreed on the need to negotiate a new multi-fibre arrangement by the end of the year though they were not far apart and on the need to persuade Japan to open its markets to imports.

GEC links with Telecom

British Telecom has signed an agreement with GEC for the world-wide marketing of its Prestel teledata software, to run from January 1.

Mr Richard Hooper, chief executive of information services at British Telecom, said: "Here is another good example of a public sector-private sector partnership. Viewdata was invented a decade ago at British Telecom's research laboratories. It has been taken up and exploited vigorously by British industry yielding overseas exports in excess of £30m to date."

The link between Telecom and GEC comes after the increased competition introduced by the recent British Telecommunications Act. It will apply to sales of private and public systems using a combination of GEC computer hardware and Prestel software.

THIS WEEK

Today: Provisional figures of retail sales in November and index of industrial production for October. Parliamentary select committee hearing on the Lloyd's Bill which proposes to improve self-regulation in the insurance markets (also on Wednesday).

Tomorrow: EEC transport council meets.

Wednesday: Industry and trade select committee discusses British Shipbuilders; evidence from Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State. Department of Energy officials give evidence on the Energy select committee's hearing on North Sea oil depletion policy. Details of average earnings (October) and basic rates of wages (November) from Department of Employment.

Thursday: Energy select committee continues with evidence from Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State. Cyclical indicators for the United Kingdom economy (November). Revised figures for capital expenditure by manufacturing, distributive and service industries (third quarter), and manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter). Bank of England Bulletin will include third-quarter figures on British banking sector statistics, money stock and central government borrowing requirement.

Investment intentions of manufacturing, distributive and service industries for 1982-83, from the Department of Industry. Steel production figures (November).

Friday: Retail prices index and tax and price index (both November).

United Engineering Industries,

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of the Company to be admited to the Official List, including the shares to be issued in connection with the proposed amalgamation with Micro Consultants Limited and two American Companies ("the MCL Group"). Subject as mentioned below, dealings are expected to begin on Monday, 21st December, 1981.

It is expected that particulars of the enlarged group will be available in the Extel Statistical Services on Friday, 18th December, 1981, subject to the approval by the shareholders of the resolution to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting convened for 12.00 noon on Thursday, 17th December, 1981, notice of which accompanied a circular letter to shareholders dated 27th November, 1981, and to completion of the proposed amalgamation.

Pending such particulars being available, copies of two circular letters to shareholders giving details of the acquisition of Yewlands Engineering Company Limited and Precomp Engineering Services Limited and of the proposed amalgamation with the MCL Group dated 17th July, 1981, and 27th November, 1981, respectively can be obtained from:

N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS LIMITED,
New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London, EC4P 4DU.

Women in a man's world

Real equality of opportunity — giving women the same chance to succeed at work as men — still seems a long way off. But some women are managing to break through the barriers. The prospects are slowly but perceptibly improving for women in management. Sally Watts spoke to three women, all in their 30s, who are establishing themselves in male settings and, at the same time, assisting the careers of other women.

□ Rhiannon Chapman, 35, was appointed head of personnel at the Stock Exchange last year, becoming one of the City's few female senior managers. Since she arrived in Old Broad Street, equipped with a law degree and 11 years' personnel experience in electronics, she has made some interesting discoveries.

One is that the City, which she had seen as "a bit moribund and traditionalist," is in fact quite the opposite. Behind the calm veneer of utter changelessness and masculinity, there is actually a lot of change and room for creativity — from women, too. The image may be all-male; the reality is less so.

The Stock Exchange itself surprised her. For one thing, it has more sophisticated equipment in everyday use than the electronics company she used to work for. It also has twice as many women staff in higher positions; this is partly because of the different skills required — mainly technological in electronics, mainly administrative in the Stock Exchange. Nevertheless, considering the latter's strongly male image, the difference intrigued her.

Part of Mrs Chapman's work is to find the best way to organize jobs, and to see what skills should be developed so that neither skills nor people become obsolete. Although concerned with men and women equally, she is pleased that a number of women are in junior and middle management, and can be expected to move up. Within its traditional framework, the Stock Exchange is much more willing than it was, even fairly recently, to offer career prospects to the able ambitious woman.

Rhiannon Chapman's role includes spotting potential, wherever this happens to be, and having women staff available provides her with another set of options.

"There's less resistance now to thinking about a woman for promotion", she says. "It's become respectable, even laudatory, yet there's still a touch of adventure. And the more women there are in senior positions, the easier for those who follow".

She herself is ambitious and aims to become a personnel director. "I need to be successful, to see tasks being performed to a professional, not a peripheral, standard", she says. She has a simple philosophy for being a woman in a male world: "If a man is sensitive to my being a woman, that's his problem, not mine".

□ Women form only 4 per cent of people going on management courses, and usually they have to ask to attend, whereas men are sent. This is one symptom of a complex pervading atmosphere which, coupled with women's own attitudes, inhibits their progress, says Valerie Hammond, 39, head of applied research at Ashridge Management College.

Her own working life began in 1961 as a teenage secretary; she progressed by using and creating opportunities and earning increasing responsibility. Since she joined Ashridge two years ago she has been much involved with researching women's employment, particularly for the Manpower Services Commission-sponsored "Women and Management" project.

Mrs Hammond describes some of the limiting attitudes and expectations that tend to hold women back. For example: boys are more likely to go on day-release than girls, who may start evening classes in their mid-twenties; men are often expected to follow up induction courses with college-based training, and do so, but for women the approach is different, and therefore many do not; men take care to be broadly based, women cling to support roles and specialisms; men progress in logical sequence, women take opportunities at random.

Photographs by Chris Gregory

Rhiannon Chapman (left), head of personnel at the Stock Exchange; Valerie Hammond (centre), head of applied research at Ashridge Management College; and Jane Adams, career planning adviser at NatWest Bank.

Women expect to work conscientiously and await promotion — indefinitely; men get more skills and, if promotion is not soon forthcoming, ask why. Again, if a firm advertises for maths or science graduates, women with an arts degree do not apply; their male counterparts do, though, and by developing on a broader basis, may progress faster than a woman who has the appropriate degree.

Valerie Hammond advises women to find the key job for them, in their firm, and work towards it; to develop themselves and not be modest about it; to make self-appraisals and, instead of being shunted into a tunnel, to secure the training they need; to forget about specialisms and think about new work areas.

Secretaries, too, by developing a strategy, can use their role as a basis for management; her own method as a secretary, first for a manufacturer, then with Mobil, was to identify the team's weakest point and train herself to strengthen it.

At Mobil she became interested in office technology, moved into management and training, and began working for an Open University degree. Later she joined the Petroleum Industry Training Board and soon became project manager, with responsibility for a research programme dealing with changes in office work, and for advising on women in the oil industry.

"In the last analysis," she says, "it's up to women to help themselves. The route is different for everyone: what is important is a positive personal approach."

□ Jane Adams, 35, entered banking as a school-leaver with four A-levels, passed the Institute of Bankers' examinations and was working in the Midlands for the National Westminster Bank when she was promoted last year to be a career planning adviser in London with special responsibility for developing women staff.

More than half NatWest's workforce are women, yet relatively few hold responsible jobs. Realizing that while their talents remain unfulfilled the bank is the loser, NatWest set up monitoring procedures, transferred Jane Adams from Leicester to Lothbury as a watchdog for women and in 1981 launched a scheme which, from its inception, enables women to return to the bank after having children. New mothers will do relief work and take up the threads again after, at most, five years' absence.

With a continuing male-orientated tradition and few women in senior roles on whom younger employees could model their careers, female staff have been at a disadvantage in banking. This lack of career "conditioning" meant that the ambitious, talented school or college leaver tended to rule banking out of her plans.

But now a welcome change is infiltrating NatWest, in which Jane Adams sees her role as "adding impetus to a climate of encouragement". She wants to foster awareness of the value to women of early career planning, going on courses, taking opportunities, and to see they get their share of training.

Her job includes advising on policy and procedures affecting women, perhaps questioning whether something "that has always been done this way", could not be done in a slightly different way.

"Anyone looking for talent has to remember that 50 per cent resides in women," she says. "Even the most entrenched manager realizes they are capable of far more than was dreamed of, even 10 years ago. Attitudes will change still faster as more women perform well in demanding jobs."

Sally Watts

ALL MALT WHISKIES are good. A few, sublime. Among these, there is some gentlemanly jostling for pride of place.

The Old Contenders

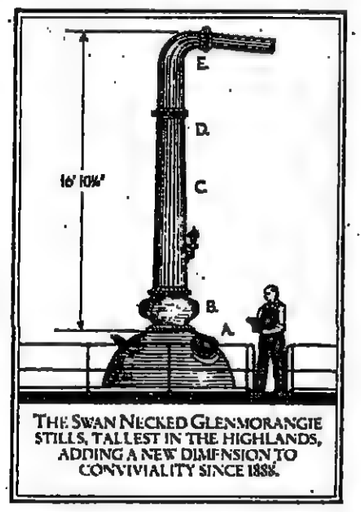
SOME POINT TO their product's mist-shrouded history; some to their peat and their barley; others yet to the chilly waters of the burn that feeds the distillery; or to the length of time the finished liquor matures and burgeons in its oaken bed.

Primus inter pares

ONLY ONE, HOWEVER, stands literally head and shoulders above the rest.

ITS NAME IS GLENMORANGIE, a saffron-gold malt of the most singular sweet-temper and purity.

AT THIS POINT, *most other Highland malt stills call it a day. But callow elements can still be ascending.*



THE SWAN NECKED GLENMORANGIE STILLS, TALLEST IN THE HIGHLANDS, ADDING A NEW DIMENSION TO CONVIVIALITY SINCE 1888.

NOTE THE BULGE *in the neck just above the main body of the still. It catches the crasser essences and returns them to the boiling.*

THE HEART *of the whisky-making process, the still itself, where the cherished ingredients seethe and jostle in anticipation of imminent lift-off.*

A swan among the onions

GLENMORANGIE'S VIRTUE, while deriving in part from hallowed spring water and time-honoured rituals as impressive as any of its rivals, stems most significantly from an idiosyncrasy of its stills which (though conventionally onion-shaped at the base) possess necks so tall that they make other Highland stills look almost dwarfish.

THIS IS NOT for the sake of mere elegance; it has a higher purpose.

The height of contentment

THE TALLER THE NECK of the still, the less can the heavier elements and grosser oils climb to mingle with the purer vapours that ascend to the top.

THE RESULT (after ten years' slumber in oaken casks) is a single malt whisky from which initiates obstinately refuse to be weaned, and to which newcomers vow dedication from the first uplifting bibble.

A little nearer heaven than other Malt Whiskies.

GLENMORANGIE

The Glenmorangie Distillery Company, Tain, Ross-shire. Established 1843

Company profits set to recover in 1982

Brokers' views

A substantial growth in British company profits but a poor performance in the world economy is the forecast for 1982 by **Philips and Drew.** As long as there is an improvement in industrial volume and the sterling does not rise from present levels, they say profit recovery should be around 20 per cent. Given this background, the brokers believe equities offer good value now, even though they are only a little below their all-time high.

The effects of the upturn on one of Britain's most successful companies, British Petroleum, are definitely good, say **Rowe & Pitman.** The tide has turned for the company and despite the chance of a distorted final quarter because of stock losses and refinery write-offs, the worst is past, they say. The brokers indicate that there should be much better news from the North Sea next year, and strongly recommend the shares as a buy. But disappointment with BP's third quarter results has left Strauss, Turnbull less optimistic.

They say BP is still being held back by poor downstream results while upstream earnings are probably on a plateau with the group's North Sea output near its peak. They also say there are other, better prospects elsewhere in the industry, and their preferred choices are Shell Transport for sterling accounts and Standard of Indiana, Atlantic Richfield or Standard of California for those able to invest overseas.

In the less glamorous but still important insurance sector, **Capel-Cure Myers** say that shares in Commercial Union Assurance were overrated during the summer by about 50p. They have since fallen to 130p, where the brokers say they offer a more balanced risk reward ratio. The risk is further sharp falls in profits resulting in dividend cuts and eventually the necessity of a rights issue. The brokers say that a recent meeting with the group's management assuaged their misgivings on all three points. They conclude that CU's prospective dividend yield of over 12 per cent is its main attraction and they recommend holding the shares on these grounds alone.

In the case of Royal Insurance, they say the issues are more simple. Its dividend yield is only 2.5 points less than CU's but more soundly based. Despite US operations deteriorating in 1982 there are reasonable prospects of a sound earnings upturn and they regard the shares as worth holding.

On General Accident they consider a long-term core holding in the sector, and although the dividend yield is only half CU's, its cover is double. With the prospect of further growth in earnings this year and next, they say, dividends should increase progressively, in due course substantially reducing this yield differential.

Another composite insurer, Phoenix Assurance, is considered by **Sheppards and Chase.** They say that on a 9.6 per cent prospective yield for 1981, the shares are not excessively over priced, at around 240p per ordinary share, but there are better opportunities elsewhere in the sector. While the UK performance should improve as a result of a recently installed computer system, the large number of overseas interests does not offer scope for a good overall performance.

Sheppards say they advise holders of Phoenix shares to switch into Commercial Union for income or to Sun Alliance for growth.

A less pessimistic assessment of the prospects for Phoenix shareholders is made by **Rowe & Pitman,** who say that though the third quarter results were depressing, they continue to expect a small rise in the dividend. Although the outlook for 1982 is uncertain and depends principally on the performance of the Continental business, most investors will hold.

In the insurance broking sector, **Carr Sebag** believe it is a good time to buy.

Drew Johnston

Business appointments

Barclays International director named

Mr Denys Henderson has been made a director of **Barclays Bank International.** Mr Henderson is a director of Imperial Chemical Industries and a non-executive director of Dalgety.

Mr David Fisher has been appointed a managing director of **Harrison Cowley Advertising (Northern).**

Mr. Sandy Leitch, Mr Donald Pell and Mr Alan Young have joined the board of **Hambro Life.**

Mr R. J. Wilson has been appointed chief executive of Grindlays Humberclyde, a subsidiary of Grindlays Bank.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Banks and building societies at war

Are the banks and the building societies merely making peripheral forays into each others' territory? Or are they now locked into a war that may ultimately change the face of High Street banking?

Neither party would admit to the latter view at this stage. Yet that must be the logical end of the road down which both parties have now embarked. Unless, that is, the Government and the Bank of England decide that the process should be halted. And that, I think, would be a pity.

It has taken a long time for the present warfare to start. For most of the seventies, banks and building societies, kept to their traditional paths. For the banks, that meant sitting back and watching the building societies carve out a steadily increasing share of the personal savings market. The home-loan market was effectively a "no-go area" and, in the first half of the seventies, the banks had even had to constrain their deposit rates, on official direction, from the Government's wish to prevent a damaging rise in the mortgage rate. On top of that, there was the periodic restraint placed on the growth of their business by the banking "corset".

Now, however, in a political environment that favours competition, banks and building societies find themselves face to face in a battle to increase volume to sustain the costly overhead structures they have both created.

It is ironic that the societies, as mutuals, have, perhaps, had at least as sharp an appetite for expansion as the banks. Indeed, it has been partly this voracious appetite for expansion — together, of course, with ever-sharper competition from National Savings — that has left the societies with an overall cost-of-funds profile that has made it rather easier for the banks operating on what must be fine margins, to undercut them on the mortgage front.

A further irony is the rapid development of the technology of financial services. Theoretically, this should offer both groups some respite from the grow-to-survive syndrome by giving them the opportunity to stabilize their operating costs.

But there is, of corse, another side to the technology coin. At the same time, it is opening up a whole new range of financial services for the consumer; and that, inevitably, will make for greater rather than less competition.

In short, there seems every reason why the war to increase market share in financial services is likely to intensify over time rather than abate.

If so, one starts to move into the realms of speculation. For instance, could the late eighties see the High Streets dominated, not by a handful of clearing banks and a host of building societies but by, say, a dozen major financial services groups?

Certainly, this looks to be the road down which we are moving and from which it may soon be too late to be able to turn back — if it is not so already. That being the case, the authorities need to make up their minds extremely rapidly if this is what they consider to be in the national interest.

On the face of it, there should be no reason to oppose such a rationalisation of financial services in this country. Indeed, the consumer should have all to gain, provided there are sufficient major competing bodies left in the sector. That, however, must entail adequate thought being given to how the capital structure of the building societies might evolve to enable them to be soundly based as more active participants in a broader range of financial services.

There are, however, further advantages that could flow from an evolution of the financial services structure.

One very obvious one would be the extension of the Bank of England's control over a much broader face of the financial, and hence the monetary, system.

A second, is that it would probably aid the rationalisation of the fiscal advantages given to lenders and borrowers without seriously discriminating against any particular class of financial institutions.

There is, after all, a continuing debate over whether the tax subsidy offered home-buyers is either equitable or economically desirable. It is certainly difficult to envisage any UK Government ending this tax advantage at a stroke. But that does not mean to say that the benefit might not at some stage be reduced over a period of time.

To the extent that such a move raised the cost to the home-buyer of servicing a mortgage, it would presumably lead to some constraint both on house prices and the growth in the average size of mortgages taken out. With volume growth the name of the game, this would have significant implications for institutions still heavily dependent on home finance business alone.

There is then the issue of the saver. Here there are two aspects in particular. The first concerns the gross and net payment of interest to savers.

At present, the building societies pay investors their interest net of basic rate tax and act as the Inland Revenue's tax collector. But because they pay interest to a large number of non-taxpayers who cannot recover the tax, the tax the societies actually pay over to the Inland Revenue is based on a composite rate, making allowance for the non-tax paying members. The composite rate is, therefore, always several points below the basic rate of tax. In effect, what this means is that the non-taxpayer gives a subsidy to other building society users and helps to keep the overall cost of funds lower than it might otherwise be.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer: Will the Treasury attempt to halt, or encourage, the evolution of the financial services sector?

In one sense this is no more than a case of caveat emptor. If the non-taxpayer gets a raw deal from building society investment, then that is his own look out. But it is not especially satisfactory; it is a considerable bone of contention with the banks, who see the composite rate as unfair competition; and there are in any case a number of building societies which are keen to be able to move to a more flexible system allowing them to offer gross interest payments. Here again, rationalization of the present institutional structure would almost certainly bring the issue to a head.

More generally, a rationalized structure, producing more generalist and less specialist financial service groups, should also make it easier for governments to consider a more general revision of the tax advantages that might usefully be given to savers.

At the moment, these advantages go largely to the long-term saver through a pension fund and, to a lesser extent, the saver using the life assurance route. Yet the government is increasingly concerned about the liquidity of the personal sector and a number of monetary economists have often posed the question as to how the potential inflationary effects of this could be more effectively neutralized.

One way is to make medium-term savings a great deal more attractive fiscally.

Personal Sector Liquidity £000m

	Bank Deposits	Building Soc Deposits
1970	10.1	10.1
1977	21.0	31.7
1978	24.2	36.6
1979	30.3	42.4
1980	36.6	49.5

Frittering away the North Sea's riches

"North Sea oil provides a unique opportunity for Britain to improve her economic performance, raise her living standards, move forward to full employment, and develop as a socially just society." Thus wrote the then Labour government in a White Paper in 1978.

Two and a half years later Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of British Leyland, was telling the Government that if it could not find a way of living with North Sea oil and bringing the exchange rate down it should "leave the bloody stuff in the ground".

Looking round at the industrial havoc caused by the steepest recession since the war, it is certainly hard to believe that the British people have benefited from oil. Output, investment and living standards are all at their lowest for some years; unemployment is the highest ever recorded and rising; interest rates remain at historically high levels and inflation has stuck obstinately in double figures.

What has happened to the great oil bonanza? Are we really better off with oil?

Oil makes a relatively small contribution to national output, accounting for about 3¾ per cent of gross national product this year and predicted to rise to a peak of about 5 per cent by the mid-1980s.

But it makes a much bigger contribution to Government revenues through such imposts as petroleum revenue tax and has a substantial impact on the balance of payments.

This year revenues will top £5,880m, equivalent to 5¼ per cent of all tax revenues, rising to 6 per cent or so by 1983-84; while oil exports will contribute perhaps £8,000m to the balance of payments in 1981 (compared with a £6,000m projected current account surplus).

The present Government was the first to reap the benefits of oil. Revenues began to flow only in 1978-79, to the tune of a mere £500m, but rose quickly to £2,300m in 1979-80, and £3,800m in 1980-81. So any inquest on what has happened to Britain's oil wealth must focus on what this Government has done.

The Government's policy is to use North Sea oil revenues to help reduce the public sector borrowing requirements, so as to cut interest rates and thus encourage investment.

In the words of Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury last May: "Without these revenues, government borrowing would be higher and so interest rates would be higher, within a given rate of monetary growth. By keeping interest rates lower than they would otherwise be, the oil revenues are making it easier for the private sector to invest."

But there is a second component of government policy: a willingness to accept an oil-inflated exchange rate much higher than Britain's competitive position warrants. The Treasury has estimated that oil-related factors (mostly to do with Britain's relative insulation from the impact of higher oil prices) might have accounted for as much as a third to a half of the pound's strength during 1979 and 1980 when it rose by nearly 25 per cent.

Until quite late in the day the Government connived at this over-valuation, mainly because it helped in the fight against inflation.

But ministers also seized on the justification put forward by Forsyth and Kay (Fiscal Studies, July 1980). They said that a higher exchange rate was the mechanism by which oil revenues were transformed into purchasing power through cheapening imports, and that by the same token the possession of oil inevitablty entailed a contraction of the manufacturing sector which became less competitive.

The existence of a balance of payments surplus, chiefly owing to our possession of oil, and a strong exchange rate, did however permit the Government to abolish exchange controls.

Since then more than £6,000m has gone overseas as investment in foreign stocks and shares, and £5,500m into foreign operations of United Kingdom businesses, attracted by the better returns available abroad. This has tended to exert downward pressure on the exchange rate, off-setting to some extent the oil-induced rise.

Everyone agrees that because North Sea oil is a finite resource the principal object of policy must be to convert the revenues flowing from it into other assets which which will go on yeilding income after the oil runs out. What has been the result of government policy so far?

Using the revenues to reduce government borrowing may indeed have reduced interest rates from what they otherwise would have been, given the Government's monetary targets. But the impact of any such reduction on investment has been wholly negated, first by the Government's tight money policy which has kept interest rates high, and secondly, by its restictive borrowing limit which has depressed the economy — and by dampening demand — has lowered the prospective return on capital projects.

In addition, the impact last year of the steeply rising exchange rate was to wipe out large parts of manufacturing industry which could no longer compete and to squeeze profits, which in turn led to redundancies and a big cutback in investment, precisely the reverse of what the Government intended.

The high exchange rate did temporarily make the British people better off. It boosted their real incomes by making imports cheaper and thus lowering the rate of inflation. But this was only at the expense of company profitability and it did not last. Living standards are now lower than they were before the Government took office.

So far, then the oil revenues have gone in three directions — on investment abroad, which provides the only additional permanent assets to show for it; on financing a short-lived boost to personal living standards, most of which went on higher consumption especially of imports; and on meeting the cost of a huge rise in unemployment, one reason why the Government has been relatively unsuccessful in curbing its own borrowing

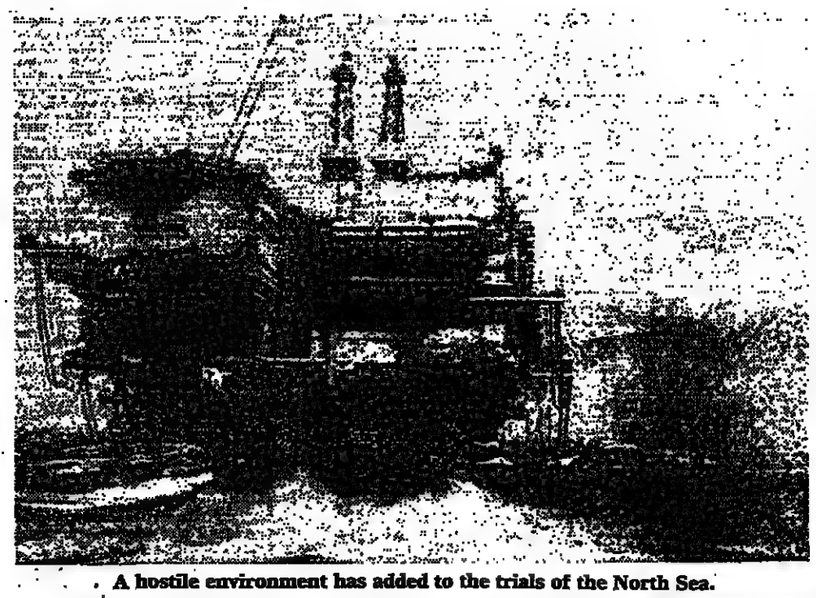
The conclusion must be that the Government has so far frittered away most of the benefits of North Sea oil and shows every sign of continuing to do so.

The alternative would have been to pursue an expansionary policy designed to ensure that the additional revenues provided by oil were directed into extra investment, for example, through a special North Sea fund or by subsidizing the cost of investment capital. Without expansion, oil merely displaces other forms of production.

Removal for a few years of the balance of payments constraint would have permitted higher imports of capital equipment to modernize British industry. This would have reduced the current account surplus and lowered the exchange rate, minimizing the adjustment burden for industry and the attractions of investment overseas.

Instead oil has become a burden rather than a blessing on the British people. Sir Michael Edwardes was right. We should have left the "bloody stuff" beneath the waves for a more enlightened management.

Frances Williams



A hostile environment has added to the trials of the North Sea.

Tough anti-corruption laws in US have been watered down. Edward Symonds reports

Turning the Nelson eye on bribery

Washington

The next few weeks will be busy ones in the official hunt for palm-greasers. In the raucous investigations that are now getting under way, neither givers nor alleged receivers of bribes will be blessed.

On the bribe receiving end, the Senate has at the last minute flinched and deferred until January its long-drawn-out efforts to impale Harrison A Williams, Democrat of New Jersey, on the spear set up for him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Abscam Plot".

On the bribe-giving end, the action will be in the House of Representatives and, of course, the target will be big business. Four months have now passed since McDonnell Douglas, determined to stop the public washing of its dirty linen, agreed to end a two-year suit by paying criminal and civil fines totalling more than $1.2m for bribes paid in Pakistan, the Philippines, Venezuela and South Korea.

But memories of the revelations of the mid-seventies are being kept green by opponents of the latest effort to soften the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which was passed with a great show of reforming zeal in 1977.

In its new round of hearings, held in the usually innocuous setting of the Sub-Committee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance, the House has yet to show its hand. But everyone else has.

The Republican-dominated Senate lost no time in offering the Business Practices and Records Bill, intended to serve as a watered-down version of the hated Carter-period Act. Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, last month abandoned his championship of the 1977 Act, which he helped to draft, and now supports the softer measure. Under the provisions of the Bill that will be awaiting House action early in the new year, a company with "reason to know" that its employees or agents are offering bribes, will no longer be liable (as it was under the 1977 legislation) to fines of up to $1m and prison sentences of up to five years. In place of this wording, the Senate is proposing that a management will be breaking the law only if it authorizes bribery "expressly or by course of conduct".

A further Senate proposal is that enforcement will be shifted from the Securities and Exchange Commission, (SEC), which played a leading role in the revelations of the last decade, to the Department of Justice. Mr John S. R. Shad, the SEC's new head, formerly an investment banker and a vigorous supporter of the Reagan election campaign, has raised no objection to this curbing of his authority. In common with the new Administration as a whole, he has been doing his best to smooth the way for the passage of the Senate package.

The build-up of steam behind the Senate move owes much to the support of business, which still hopes for more favours than it has so far received from the Reagan Administration. The 1977 Act, like the 1981 Companies Act in Britain, is bitterly resented because of the cost of compliance and the danger of confidential disclosures. The consultant fraternity, like Dr Paul H. Nitze, American leader of the European disarmament negotiations, now in progress in Geneva, has backed up the business position with weighty arguments against weakening the marketing arm of the multinational corporations.

The American giants are complaining that they are losing millions of dollars in export sales because of their inability to sweeten their offerings in ways that they claim to be universally adopted among their foreign competitors. They also complain of the unfairness of the accounting requirements of the 1977 Act, which can add as much as 50 per cent to an audit charge, thus imposing an additional load of several million dollars annually on the head office expenses of the larger companies.

Far from lapping up this new source of gravy, as has often been argued by business critics, the accountancy profession has been deeply concerned over the vagueness of the 1977 Act.

Mr William S. Kanaga, chairman of Arthur and Company and immediate past chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, has berated the "fuzziness" of the 1977 Act, both as to the adequacy of a company's internal controls and as to the extent of a transgression (from a free lunch to an unmarked envelope stuffed with cash) that should be castigated as "material" and hence subject to censure and possible legal action.

The Senate proposal seeks to reduce some of the uncertainty by limiting head office reporting responsibility for minority-interest foreign affiliates, and by providing that a bribe will only be illegal abroad if paid in a country in which such actions are disallowed under local law.

In practice, of course, even the humblest of banana republics usually boasts stringent anti-bribery laws. In the mid-seventies' revelations it was the countries, whose officials and purchasing agents had been bribed, that were the most vehement in their demands for redress.

Another weakness of the Senate proposal is that, to the legal mind, the language offered as a substitute for the present clause on "reason to know" could make a dead letter of that part of the law.

Mr Harold M. Williams, chairman of the SEC during the Carter Administration but a critic of the present law, foresees the development, under the Senate version of a "shut-eye approach" by business. The result, he believes, would be the proliferation of a management culture based on the principle "I'm not going to direct, I'm not going to authorize, and don't tell me".

From this point of view, a preferable strategy would be to abandon the anti-bribery effort altogether. If this be the Administration's ultimate intention, there is (understandably) no desire to trumpet it from the roof tops.

In the meantime, the Department of Justice is left with the chore of enforcing the 1977 statute. Mr Jonathan C. Rose is the assistant attorney general who is carrying most of this load. Significantly, he is an office holder from the Carter Administration

Last month Mr Rose told the House that his department has no fewer than 54 cases of possible foreign bribery under investigation. The Justice Department, as always, has its lips sealed on the identity of the companies under suspicion. Observers believe that the leading resource, electronic and communications companies were too severely scarred during the 70s to feature again among today's group of possible transgressors. Construction, equipment and consumer-goods purveyors to Middle East markets would seem to be more likely department targets.

Such proceedings under the 1977 Act have in the past generally been settled out of court. Under the new administration, and with such a heavy case load on the docket, the expectation is that (regardless of whatever legislative progress is made) the Department of Justice will struggle to speed up the settlement process to the full extent allowed under the present law.

Business Diary profile: Giuseppe Cabassi, Milan's Mr Sandman

Milan

His empire, he himself admits, is founded on sand. "El Sabiunat" or "The Sandman" is the Milanese dialect nickname for Guiseppe Cabassi, one of the latest entrepreneurs to set tongues wagging in Italy's business capital.

Is he buying into the ailing Rizzoli-Corriere Della Sera newspaper and publishing group? Is he selling the Rinascente-Upim stores chain to Roberto Calvi, the controversial banker?

Is he teaming up with the Socialist Party — this last rumour because he was seen dining, children and all, at the next table to the Socialist Party secretary, Bettino Craxi at a Milan restaurant.

There may be both truth and fiction in all these. Cabassi is not given to advertising his activites; his staff is not even allowed to provide his photograph. "He is too modest," is the way staff members put it. The family portrait would show a bushy browed, quiet spoken, handsome man of 52, married with eight children, of whom the eldest son of 24 works with his father, while another of 20 is studying at a seminary for the priesthood.

It began with sand, or rather with sandpits left by his father for supplying the building industry. One thing led to another — sand to building and property, then to hotels and tourism, and also to insurance. Cabassi has probably as many companies quoted on the Milan Bourse as anyone — De Angeli Frua, Ausonia, Brioschi, Centenari e Zinelli, La Rimascente and Isvim.

He is one of the aggressive, northern Italian entrepreneurs of the 1980s, financiers rather than manufacturers, and thus quite different to yesterday's Agnellis of Fiat or Pirellis and, one hopes, equally different to the scandal soiled likes of Sindona and Caltagirone of the 1970s.

From sandpits to strong-room: Giuseppe Cabassi, "The Sandman". Milan strong-rooms help the rich sleep easier at night.

Others of Cabassi's ilk include Silvio Berlusconi, 44 (property development, private television); Orazio Bagnasco, 54 (unit trusts, luxury hotels); Guido Teruzzi, 55 (bourse operations); and, most prominent of all, Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti, who is also vice-chairman of Banco Ambrosiano.

His activities, according to Cabassi, fall into three areas — insurance (five companies, Ausonia, Veneta, Intercontinentale, Levante and Europa), property (De Angeli Frua and Brioschi), and hotels (Isvim).

Plenty of movement is going on. The insurance groups claim annual premiums of 350,000m lire (£150m). The hotel group is expanding. De Angeli Frua is being reshaped as a holding company, with a controlling interest in La Rinascente, bought last year.

Brioschi is to be cornerstone of the property interests, and is undergoing a massive capital increase from 10,000m to 220,000m lire (£4.3m to £95.6m), thanks to the entry of new partners including de Benedetti. "But I will keep control," Cabassi adds.

Then, almost as an afterthought, he recalled he has Frigoriferi Milanesi, the "Milan refrigerators", the city's icemaking plant in the days when food was cooled with blocks of ice. Now it offers the biggest security storage vaults in Italy, "Milan's Fort Knox", in the words of the advertisement.

You can rent anything from a locked drawer for jewels or documents to a 28 sq m (301 sq ft) strong room for works of art or gold ingots, guarded day and night by a private army, many of them ex-police. During the hot summer you can deposit fur coats (with a cleaning and repair service) and carpets (with a beating service).

"Last summer we took in 60,000 fur coats and 22,000 carpets", Cabassi says. "A few years ago Scotland Yard people came out and gave us advice on the vaults."

Apple of Cabassi's eye is Milanofiori, a huge office development he is building on the southern outskirts, near the entry to the Genoa motorway. "This is what is nearest to my heart", he says with a nod towards the glass- fronted, half-deserted blocks looming through the wintry mist, looking like the set of a Fellini film.

There will be office accommodation for 15,000, an hotel, and a congress centre to seat 1,800. The World Trade Centre in Italy will be here, and also the Milan agricultural commodities bourse. He would evidently like to attract the Milan trade fair which, situated in the city centre, is "outdated from all points of view."

What is the recipe for such self-made progress? The choice of men, is Cabassi's answer. If he buys a company, he does not try to run it, but carefully selects the management. "Any firm can be good if it has the people to make the wheels turn round," he said.

His staff add another reason for success — barter. He finances activities by offering in exchange property rights at Milanofiori, a useful way of minimizing bank exposure in times of high interest rates.

Even so, it is not always easy going. He realized years ago that Milan was bursting its seams and the future lay outside the city limits. He had an area near the Como-Turin motorway junction, but never received building permission. Then he heard the Visconti family and a private company had development permits about to expire in what is now Milanofiori, so he jumped at the opportunity.

John Earle

BURGESS PRODUCTS (Holdings) P.L.C.

(Light electrical and acoustical engineers)

Extracts from Mr W. Riddell's Statement:

Profits for the year are reasonably satisfactory when viewed against the background of the effects of the recession on the Group's operations.

Burgess Architectural Products had a reasonably profitable year with a satisfactory performance in the U.K. market where the low level of activity still reflects a sluggish building industry. Turnover at Burgess Industrial Silencing was down but profitability continued to improve.

In the U.K., the markets for Burgess Micro Switch were depressed and extremely competitive, whilst improved results are anticipated from the three overseas companies in the current year.

At Burgess Power Tools reduced domestic spending and the strength of sterling continued to have adverse effects on home and export sales respectively although current exchange rates could foreshadow some improvement in exports.

Continuing low demand for original equipment and very keen competition in the field of replacement equipment resulted in a very low level of activity for Burgess Products Company. Sales and Engineering efforts have resulted in new contracts and whilst these are yet at a modest level, they will be quite substantial as and when the truck and tractor industries recover from the recession.

The Balance Sheet has been considerably strengthened by the reduction in working capital during the year and the Group has adequate borrowing facilities to take advantage of an improvement in the economy when it arises. The gearing adjustment reveals that less than 30% of the Group's average fixed assets and working capital during the year was financed by borrowing and is an additional indication of the underlying strength of the Group.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Little cheer for drinks sector

The start of the festive season seems an appropriate time to focus on the drinks sector with half-year figures this week from Distillers on Thursday and full-year figures from Arthur Guinness tomorrow.

In addition, there are full-year figures tomorrow from BOC International and full-year trading news on Thursday from English China Clays, recently the subject of many bid rumours.

This week

Distillers' first-half performance is unlikely to warrant the recent sharp increase in the share price, with analysts predicting another drop in volume against a backround of dull sales.

Estimates are for around £70m compared with last year's £77.8m as the first half was affected by the rush for retailers to stock up ahead of the spring Budget, and subsequent price increase, which left first-half sales looking dull.

Overseas, the picture looks little different, with falling sales in all three principal markets, Japan, the United States and Europe.

As a result, the group has severly cut its distilling operations with around 50 per cent of its production capacity lying idle. But one benefit of the recession has been the shift to cheaper whisky blends, and here Distillers' Claymore brand has dominated the field. As a result, the group is soon to launch another cheaper brand, Old Mull.

The interim dividend should be maintained at 4.28p gross, with prospects for the full year depending very much on Christmas sales. In the meantime, analysts are looking for £190m for the year against £181m last time.

Analysts are also looking for another reduction in pretax profits when Arthur Guinness unveils its preliminary results with profits down from last year's level of £43.3m to £39.

Here too the recession will have had an adverse effect on the group as drinkers continue to cut back on consumption.

In addition, rising costs have increased pressure on margins and at the same time the group is striving hard to reduce costs as the trend towards lighter beers continues. Interest charges remain high with last year's account showing borrowings of £114m.

Its 70 per cent owned Harp Lager is facing fierce competition in the lager market.

Meanwhile its Nigerian interest continues to struggle, along with that country's economy, and the problems continue to grow.

Despite all this the final dividend should be maintained at 4.75p. But prospects for the present year remain grim with little sign of an improvement. A further reduction in profits is envisaged, with estimates at present amounting to £37m.

Despite signs of a recovery in the china clay industry, profits of English China Clay are expected to show a shortfall for the year with estimates ranging from £34m to £40m compared with the previous level of £43m.

First-half volume figures showed a drop of 17.1 per cent over the previous six months, dipping from £19m to £15m. However, the second half showed a dramatic change with the slide held to one of 3 per cent. Both sales in the United Kingdom market and shipments overseas, which now make up a large proportion of overall sales, came under pressure, despite the benefit of a 6 per cent to 9 per cent increase in prices back in January.

Figures for the first quarter this year show a volume increase of 3 per cent.

The quarry activities continue to do extremely well and should make another sizable contribution on last year's figure of £9.9m pretax.

The final dividend should show an 8 per cent increase on the previous figure of 5p, and with another price increase in the pipeline for January, hopes are for profits of £45m.

What has been a good year for BOC International, the industrial gas giant, looks likely to be capped today when the group's full-year figures give substance to last January's forecast of a substantial increase in profits for 1981.

Best estimates are going for £90m, against last year's £61.5m, with a couple of pence on the dividend to at least 5p. BOC's £63m profits at the nine months stage pointed the way.

With its wide geographical and product spread, BOC is less vulnerable that many to recession in any one area. North America, the Pacific and Africa are likely to show strong performances helped by currency exchange gains.

Michael Clark

Sue Packer

Lord Aberconway, chairman of English China Clays, who is expected to report a downturn in profits when the group reveals its full-year figures on Thursday.

The week's board meetings

TODAY. — Interims: Brasway, James Cropper, Crown House, Deritend Stamping, Fairdale Textiles, Gieves, Gresham House, Haslemere Estates, James Latham, May and Hassell, Normand Electrical, Reliable Properties, RIT, Treifus and Co, Whitecroft. Finals: BOC Group, Dobson Park, GT Asia Sterling, Martin the Newsagent.

TOMORROW. — Interims: Alliance Invest, Beechwood Construction, Chapman and Co, Intasun Leisure, London Merchant Securities, Property Holding and Investment, Premier Consolidated Oilfields, Tex Abrasives. Finals: Carr's Milling Inds, Equity & Law Life Assurance, Arthur Guinness, ICL, J. and H. B. Jackson, Kelsey Inds, Lake and Elliott, Wm Leech, Nothern Foods, Plaxtons (GB), Redfearn National Glass.

WEDNESDAY. — Interims: E. Austin, Equity Consort Invest, Hampton Gold Mining Areas, Jacksons Bourne End, Kennedy Smale, Lennons GRP, Marston, Thompson and Evershed, Radiant Metal Finishing, A. Russell, Wyndham Engineering. Finals: Bluemel Bros, T Cowie, Elson and Robbins, Marley, Stenhouse Hldgs.

THURSDAY. — Interims: Britt Steam Specialities, Distillers, Doranakande Rubber Estates, GM Firth, Geevor Tin Mines, Minet (3rd quarter), Paterson Jenks, Syltone, Trafford Carpets, Trustees Corp, Unigate, Wolverhampton Steam Laundry. — Finals: AE PLC, English China Clays, Nottingham Brick, Redman Heenan, Sidlaw Group, Vaux Breweries Whessoe.

FRIDAY. — Interims: Assoc Tooling, Batleys of Yorks, Peter Brotherhood, Continuous Stationery, ERF (Holdgs), Harold Ingram, SW Wood Group. Finals: Davenports Brewery, Hardys & Hansons, Reliant Motor, United Scientific.

Weekly list of fixed-interest stocks

	Latest price	Prev Price
Alb & Wilson 7½ Deb '85-90	61*	60
All Pty Hldgs 9½ Ln '92-97	61	60½
All Lyons 5½ Deb '87-92	54½	54
Do 7½ Ln '92-97	55½	54
AB Foods 5½ Ln '94-2002	10p	10½p
Assoc Elec 6 '78-83	86*	85½*
Do 6½ Deb '88-93	57*	57½*
BICC 7½ Deb '90-95	51	50
BLMC 6 '98-2003	31½	30½
Do 7½ '87-92	40½	40½
Do 8 Ln '92-2003	40½	39½
BOC Int 6½ Deb '81-86	87	87½
Do 9 Tonnage '98-03	85½*	84*
Bank of Ireland 7 Ln '89-91	54	54½
Barclays Bank 9½ '86-93	60*	60½
Barclays Int 7½ '88-91	60*	60*
Bass Ltd 7½ Ln '87-92	40	41
Do 7½ '92-97	54½	54½
Do 8½ Deb '87-92	63½	63½
Beecham 6½ Ln '78-83	84½	84½
Do 6 Ln '84-94	60½	60½
Bibby 10½ Deb '93-99	74*	73½
Birmid Qual 7½ Ln '87-92	48½	48
Blue Circle 7 Deb '88-91	59	58½
Do 9 Deb '92-97	65	65½
Boots 6 Ln '78-83	82*	80*
Do 7½ '88-93	57½	57
Bridon 10½ Deb '98-03	67½	67½
Brit Am Tob 7 Ln '82-87	83½	83½
Brit Shoe 7 '88-93	54½	54½
Brooke Bond 5½ Ln 2003-08	54½	54*
Burmah Oil 9½ Ln '91-96	57½	56½
Do 7½ Ln '81-86	71½	73½
Burton Gp 9½ Ln '98-2003	60½	60½
Cadbury Schweppes 8½ Ln '94-2004	54½	54½
Coats Patons 8½ Ln 2003-07	59½	58½*
Do 7½ '92-97	51½	51½
Courage 6½ Ln 2003-08	43½	44
Do 8 2nd Deb '89-94	59½*	60½
Courtaulds 6½ Ln '93-98	43½	45
Do 7 '86-87	64½	64½
Do 7½ Deb '89-94	54½	54½
Debenhams 6½ 2nd Deb	49½	50½
Do 7½ Ln '96-91	54½	55½
Do 7½ 2002-07	50½	52½
Distillers 7½ '91-93	64	63½
Dunlop 6½ Deb '83-88	64	65
English Elec 6 Deb '80-85	78	78½
Fisons 6½ '84-89	60	61
GLC 7½ '87-92	54½	54½
Do 7½ '88-93	50½	50½
Grd Met 7½ '92-97	55½*	55½

	Latest price	Prev Price
Glaxo 7½ '85-95 Ln	36½p	27½
Glynwed 10½ Ln '94-99	68	67
Grand Met 10 '91-96	60½	60½
GUS 5½ Ln	31	31
Do 7½ Ln '93-98	64	63
Do 8½ Ln '93-98	55½*	55½*
Hawker Sid 7½ Deb '87-92	62½*	60
Huntley & Palmer 7½ Deb '90-95		
ICI 5½ '94-2004	37½	37½
Do 7½ Ln '86-91	57½	57½
Do 8 '88-93	57½*	58*
Imperial Gp 10½ Ln '90-95	69½	70
Do 7 '2003-08	43½	49
Initial Services 8 Ln '88-93	56	56
Int Stores 11½ Ln 2003-08	51	50½
Laporte 10½ Deb '94-99	69½	69½
Land Securities 8½ '92-97	58	58½
Lewis's Inv Tst 6½ Und '88-90	62½	61½
Lucas 7½ '83-88	66	64
MEPC 8 Ln 2000-05	55	55½
Metal Box 10½ '92-97	69½	69½
Midland Bank 10½ Ln '93-98	70½	71½*
Nat West Bank 9 Ln 1993	63*	63*
Rank Hovis 8½ Ln '91-96	61½	62
Do 6½ Ln '85-88	66*	66*
Reckitt & Col 6½ Deb '89-94	60½	60
Reed Int 7½ Deb '90-95	65½	66½
Rugby Port Cem 6 '93-98	41½*	42*
Sainsbury (J) 7½ Deb '87-92	84	84
Scot Newcastle 6½ Deb	82½	81
Do 7½ Deb '88-93	58	58½
Slough Est 7½ Deb '90-95	57½	57
Smith (W H) 6½ Ln	31½	31½
Spillers 7 Deb '78-83	88½*	88½
Do 7½ Deb '84-89	63½	63½
Tate and Lyle 7½ Deb '89-94	57	56
Thomson Org 3 Deb '84-94	75*	73
Do 7½ '87-92	57½*	61½
Tilling (T) 8½ Ln '89-94	60½	60½
Tootal 4½ Perp Deb	31	31
Transmar Ltd 7½ Deb '89-93	56½	56½
Turner & Newall 8 Ln '87-92	53*	58*
UBM 7½ Deb '87-90	57	55
Do 10½ Deb '89-94	73	73
Unigate 6½ Ln '91-96	48	48½
Do 7½ Deb '86-91	62½	61½*
Unilever 6½ Deb '85-88	65½*	65½*
Watney 7½ Ln '84-91	49½	49½
Do 8 Ln '90-95	57½	58
Whitbread 7½ Ln '92-94	49½	50
Do 7½ Ln '96-2000	50½*	50½*
CONVERTIBLES		
Adwest 10½ '95-2000	200*	200
AB Foods 7½ '94-2004	355	355
BLMC 7½ '82-87	48½	49
Beecham 6 '84-94	270	270
Bowater 7 '92-97	84	84½
Guest Keen 6½ 1985	71½*	73*
Imperial Gp 8 '82-90	65*	66
Ind & Gen 4½ '94-97	134	135
MEPC 7½ '95-2000	81½	80
Midland Bank 7½ '83-93	97½*	97½
Romney Tst 4½ '73-78	115*	115
Tate & Lyle 13 '94-99	84	85½
Temple Bar 6 '87-91	87*	85*

* Ex dividend

More share prices

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price list tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Financial Trusts

Mills & Allen International

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14½%
Barclays	14½%
BCCI	14½%
Consolidated Crds.	15 %
C. Hoare & Co	*14½%
Lloyds Bank	14½%
Midland Bank	14½%
Nat Westminster	14½%
TSB	14½%
Williams & Glyn's	14½%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 12½%, up to £50,000 13%, over £50,000 13½%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge on week	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
1,154	ABI Hd 10% CULS	116	—	10.0	8.6	—	—
3,821	Airsprung Group	66	—	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
1,075	Armitage & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
11,792	Bardon Hill	193	+1	9.7	5.0	9.4	11.4
6,809	Deborah Services	88	-1	5.5	6.3	4.4	8.3
4,612	Frank Horsell	123	+1	6.4	5.2	11.1	25.7
9,246	Frederick Parker	64	+2	1.7	2.7	27.8	—
849	George Blair	46	—	—	—	—	—
4,061	IPC	100	—	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
2,454	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
15,596	James Burrough	113xd	+1	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
2,583	Robert Jenkins	263	—	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.3
2,340	Scruttons "A"	54	—	5.3	9.8	8.3	7.7
4,101	Torday Limited	168	—	10.7	6.4	5.4	10.0
2,885	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—
1,966	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—	—
4,833	Unilock Holdings	32	—	3.0	9.4	5.7	9.7
5,760	Walter Alexander	77	-1	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.0
4,548	W. S. Yeates	212	-2	13.1	6.2	4.0	8.2

US tiles pullout costs Norcros £1.5m

By Paul Maidment

Norcros, the railway sleepers-to-Hygena kitchens construction and engineering group, is pulling out of manufacturing its H. & R. Johnson ceramic tiles in the United States at a cost of £1.5m.

The decision, taken because of unbudgeted-for increases in rail transport costs for raw materials, is disclosed with the group's half-time figures published today.

These show a 25 per cent increase in pretax profits for the six months to September 30 to £11.3m, against £9m in the corresponding period a year earlier, on sales up from £158.9m to £164.2. The half-way dividend is being held at 2.8p gross.

Mr Ken Roberts, the chairman, said the results resulted mainly from a good performance overseas which increased its contribution to group profits to 50.2 per cent from 49.4 per cent and from the benefit of lower interest charges of £2.4m, against £3.5m a year earlier.

Mr Roberts said that in Britain only the Construction division, which has a strong order book, increased its contribution to group profits.

Most new issues start at discounts

Most of last week's offerings of Eurobonds were so badly received that they started trading at three and four-point discounts from the issue prices in what traders and underwriters described as a "debacle".

The main cause for the resistance by investors was a sharp rise in short-term interest rates. One-month rates for interbank dollar deposits in London rose to 13.44 per cent offered on Friday, from 12.56 per cent a week earlier, while the widely-watched six-month rate advanced to 14.44 per cent from 13.0 per cent.

Analysts attributed the rise in interest rates to worries about a disruptively large increase in different versions of the money supply. However, long-dated deposit rates rose by more than short-dated deposit rates.

This suggested that market participants were also concerned that interest rates would be pushed up next year by the Federal Government's record budget deficit.

Seasonal considerations also played a part in the poor after-market performance of new issues.

Euromarkets

Although managers increased the coupon rate of a $50m, seven-year note issue of Alcoa of Australia by a half-point to 16.0 per cent, this was not enough to stimulate demand. The issue tumbled to 96.75 bid, 97.25 offered, in after-market trading from the issue price of 100.

RCA Corporation's $75m, five-year note issue, bearing 15.50 per cent, declined to 95 from the issue price of par, raising the yield to a lofty 17.06 per cent. Usually, household names such as RCA sell well in the Eurobond market, but this time much of the issue was reportedly left with the underwriters.

A seven-year note issue for Nova, a Canadian oil and pipeline concern, was reduced by $25m to $A100m. Furthermore, the coupon rate was raised a half-point to 16.25 per cent and the offering was priced at a discount of 99.5.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	YTM
Australia 8 1983	93½	12.69
EIB 11 1983	98½	14.02
New Zealand 8½ 1985	93	13.91
Canada 8½ 1985	91½	14.15
Sweden 15½ 1985	106½	14.72
ARDB 12 1985	99½	14.78
Ford 16 1984	100½	15.83
Sweden 9½ 1986	79½	15.18
GMAC 11 1986	92	14.43
SNCF 12½ 1985	94½	14.30
Repsleen 11½ 1988	91½	14.00
Credit Nationale 13½ 1988	95	15.13
Renault Finance 11½ '89	85	14.45
World Bank 10½ 1987	84½	14.60
Amoco UK 13½ 1988	95	14.51
Repsol 11½ 1988	89½	15.37
EIB 13½ 1990	96½	14.53
Anheuser-Busch 11½ 1990	85	14.15
United Biscuits 11 1990	75½	16.28
Quebec Hydro 13 1991 (CW)	88½	15.46
Ontario Hydro 13½ 1991	93½	14.37
Barclays 8½ 1994	70½	13.98
Hospital Corp 10 1994	75½	14.30
Do 7½ Deb '86-91	75½	13.96
Unilever 8½ Deb '85-88	77½	14.22
Watney 7½ Ln '84-91	64½	12.52
Do 8 Ln '90-95		
Whitbread 7½ Ln '92-94		
Do 7½ Ln '96-2000		
CONVERTIBLES		
Adwest 10½ '95-2000		
AB Foods 7½ '94-2004		
BLMC 7½ '82-87		
Beecham 6 '84-94		
Bowater 7 '92-97		
Guest Keen 6½ 1985		
Imperial Gp 8 '82-90		
Ind & Gen 4½ '94-97		
MEPC 7½ '95-2000		
Midland Bank 7½ '83-93		
Romney Tst 4½ '73-78		
Tate & Lyle 13 '94-99		
Temple Bar 6 '87-91		
CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Price	Conv Prem
Ajes Standard 9½ 1994	28	4.88

	Price	YTM
Beatrice 4½ 1992	72	9.50
Denmark Kingdom 4½ '88	85½	15.33
Ford 9 1989	53½	21.28
Galveston-Houston 8 1994	109½	7.47
INA 6 1997	141½	1.05
Lear Petroleum 8 1989	98	13.41
J. P. Morgan 4½ 1987	107	1.24
Revlon 4½ 1987	93	14.43
Sperry Rand 4½ 1988	83	12.73
Warner Lambert 4½ 1987	72	43.13
Xerox 5 1988	83	146.09
DEUTSCHMARK		
ISSUES	Price	YTM
OKB 9 1987	97½	9.39
World Bank 7½ 1988	89½	9.34
FLOATING RATE NOTES	Price	Curr Yld
BNP 1983	100½	19.47
IBJ 1985	99½	19.30
Midland 1987	99½	19.11
Credit National 1988	99½	18.42
GZB 1989	99½	15.54
Barclays 1990	99½	17.67
BNP 1991	100½	18.00
Midland 1992	99½	13.77
Chase Manhattan 1995	99½	18.87
Nat West 1996	100½	16.58
Barclays 1999	99½	19.21

Source: Kidder Peabody Securities Limited.

Football

The Rangers alternative to oblivion

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The three points that Queen's Park Rangers took from their victory over Barnsley on Saturday, may have some bearing on the second division promotion picture come the sunnier climes of May. The other point they made, though, may have a more significant bearing on the whole future of the game itself.

On a freezing day, Rangers staged the only league game in the south of England. Volunteers began early in the morning to clear the snow lying on top of polytheme sheets and there below lay the only greenery to be seen in London.

Their omniturf surface is still regarded with suspicion. The Football Association and the League have put it on trial and Rangers themselves are still experimenting with it. Earlier last week they were forced to postpone a reserve game after water used to hose down the pitch froze, and rendered it unplayable. On Saturday, lumps of rock salt had to be swept away as well as the snow.

Critics, always eager to undermine the ideas of pioneers, claim that Rangers have an unfair home advantage. Seven victories in ten games as opposed to five defeats in nine away games are the statistics they put forward. Yet the figures of Barnsley, now a place lower in the table, are even more unbalanced — seven in nine and six in ten.

The balance of the players, or their lack of it, is a more telling comment. Sealy, chasing a rebound in the first half, somehow contrived to bundle himself instead of the ball into the back of Barnsley's net, inadvertently clearing the danger in the process. Like laden ships, turning was negotiated with patience rather than speed.

Skill, however, played its part. Stewart, making his bow in the absence of half a dozen regulars, displayed more than most and Micklewhite, another youngster, might as well have been performing on grass. He set up the winner after 66 minutes, crossing for Flanagan whose downward header seemed to accelerate off the frosty turf.

In reply, Barnsley, for whom Banks and Evans were particularly impressive, contributed scarcely a direct shot, although Aylott's volley seconds before the interval struck the boards behind Burridge's goal like a clap of thunder. Rangers, who are now likely to lose Gregory because of suspension as well, were rewarded in the end for a day's work that stretched from dawn to dusk.

With 34 other matches called off, fixtures are sure to pile up like snowdrifts, and with several clubs "about to go skint", in the words of Terry Venables, Rangers' manager, artificial pitches must make economic sense. They can, after all, be used for purposes other than football (hockey and rugby have already been staged at Loftus Road).

"People must open their minds, not close them," Mr Venables added. He pointed out that it is not managers and coaches who will make decisions about omniturf, or variations of it, but the directors who subsidise clubs. Displeasing as it may be for purists, Norman Hunter among them, financiers may soon be forced to examine the possibilities before it is too late. The alternative is oblivion.

The F.A. Cup throws an annual lifeline to those clinging to a precarious existence, but the third round draw, swollen to 32 names, was far from generous. Watford, who deflated Leicester City's balloon in the only other second division game on Saturday, were handed the invitation that all will envy, of entertaining Manchester United on January 2.

Of the 10 non-league survivors, only Barnet or Wycombe Wanderers have the chance to fell a giant. They must first meet to decide who goes through at home to Brighton, already humbled in the league cup by Barnsley. Enfield, providing they dismiss Wimbledon, will also be at home, against Crystal Palace.

Altrincham, knocking with importunity on the league door, are drawn away for the sixth successful time, after drawing at York in one of only four ties to be played on Saturday. Dorchester also earned a replay against Bournemouth but Penrith's path came to an end at Doncaster, who joined Huddersfield as the only winners in the second round, so far.

Five of the 32 ties involve first division clubs. Tottenham Hotspur continue their remarkable run of staying within the confines of the capital by facing Arsenal five days after playing them in the league at White Hart Lane. West Ham United are the hosts to Everton in a replay of the semi-final in 1980, the year they won the trophy.

Swansea City, who lost the chance of leading the first division as well as their unbeaten home record by conceding two late goals to Nottingham Forest on Saturday, are drawn against Liverpool, John Toshack's former club. "That was the tie we wanted during our four-year climb to the top," Swansea's manager commented.

Bobby Murdoch, in charge at Middlesbrough, warned that he would try to avoid playing the tie at Loftus Road after being paired with Rangers. If he is unsuccessful, George Best will be haunted by the memory of his last appearance there, eight years and a day ago. It was his final game for Manchester United, and they lost 3—0—but that was when the grass was greener.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS: P Burridge; J Gregory, P Hazell, G Waddock, S Bowen, G Roberts, G Micklewhite, M Flanagan, A Sealy (sub., W Fereday), I Stewart, I Gillard.

BARNSLEY: R Hirst; J Joyce, P Chambers, R Glavin, I Banks, M McCarthy, I Evans, G Riley, T Aylott, R McBride, S Berrowcliough.

Referee: D Hedges (Oxford).

FA Cup third round draw

Barnet or Wycombe v Brighton and Hove
Barnsley v Kettering or Blackpool
Birmingham City v Ipswich Town
Bolton Wanderers v Derby County
Bury or Burnley v York or Allrigham
Carlisle or Bishop Auckland v Huddersfield
Chelsea v Hull or Hartlepool
Coventry City v Sheffield Wednesday
Crewe or Scunthorpe v Hereford or Fulham
Degenham or Millwall v Grimsby
Doncaster v Cambridge United
Dorchester or Bournemouth v Aldershot or Oxford
Enfield or Wimbledon v Crystal Palace
Gillingham or Barking v Oldham
Leicester v Southampton
Luton v Swindon or Sutton United
Manchester City v Cardiff
Newcastle v Brentford or Colchester
Notts County v Aston Villa
Nottingham Forest v Wrexham
Orient v Charlton
Peterborough or Walsall v Bristol City or Northampton
Queens Park Rangers v Middlesbrough
Rotherham United v Sunderland
Shrewsbury v Port Vale or Stockport
Stoke City v Norwich City
Swansea City v Liverpool
Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal
Watford v Manchester United
West Ham United v Everton
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Leeds
West Bromwich Albion v Blackburn
Matches to be played on Jan 2

Flamengo road is one way

Liverpool 0 Flamengo 3

Tokyo, December 13.—Liverpool's first venture into the World Club Championship ended in disappointment for them here today. The European Cup holders put up a lack lustre performance and were well beaten by three first half goals. The domination of the South American champions was so total that Liverpool never looke dilke enlivening a dull second half with a recovery to satisfy the 62,000 crowd.

Zico, who won a car for being voted the player of the game by the Japanese Press, gave the Liverpool defence a torrid time and played a part in all three goals.

Nunes opened the scoring in the 13th minute after taking a pass which Zico lobbed over two defenders. In the 34th minute, Zico took a freekick and Grobbelaar, Liverpool's goalkeeper, failed to hold the ball. After a shot by Marinho had been blocked, Adilio scored. Seven minutes later Nunes again took a pass from Zico, ran clear and shot into goal from the right.

"They were dead, physically and mentally", Bob Paisley, the manager, said of Liverpool after their defeat. "I have never seen the team so dull, so lacking in ideas and aggression. I simply cannot understand it."

Mr Paisley, who maintained that Nunes was offside when taking the pass which led to the third goal, said Liverpool had earlier conceded "two soft goals". He added that Johnston was "possibly the best player in the side", Dalglish, like others in the Liverpool team, was off form and got in only one real scoring attempt.

Both sides made about the same number of shots, but Flamengo set up better scoring opportunities through Zico and their midfield players and the marksmanship of Nunes, who also won a car, for being the second best player.

The pitch was hard. "It was certainly more suited to the Brazilian side," Mr Paisley commented. "We prefer a softer pitch, but I'm not making any excuse."

Zico said it was Flamengo's extra pace which confounded the European champions. "We were the aggressors all the way."

Last year, when the fixture was first played here, Nacional, from Uruguay, beat Nottingham Forest by a single goal.

Bayern Munich, of West Germany, were the last European club to win the world club championship, when they beat the Brazilian side Cruzeiro in 1976.

FLAMENGO: Raul; Leandro, Moser, Junior, Marinho, Andrade, Tita, Adilio, Zico, Lico, Nunes.

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar; Neal, Thompson, Hansen, Lawrenson, R Kennedy, Lee, McDermott (sub Johnston), Souness, Johnston, Dalglish.—Agencies.

Flamengo dancer: Zico hurdles Grobbelaar and Hanson as the ball is blocked.

Survival on the Dorchester slope

By Nicholas Harling

Dorchester 1 Bournemouth 1

There comes a feeling of satisfaction, bordering on smugness, of being able to find a match when thousands of others can not. And of finding as rousing a one as this on the real stuff too, not on any of this artificial nonsense.

It was in one of the few corners of the country that had been spared the icy grip of the weather, on a ground that had no need to be either cleared of snow or heated from underneath that the Southern League team, unbeaten so far this season, were able to take on the bigger town slickers. What with Ken Bailey, the former England mascot, who hails from Bournemouth, and Dorchester's town crier doing laps of the tiny Avenue Ground beforehand, both of them clad in their full regalia, it was the perfect setting for an FA Cup-tie.

It must have taken Bournemouth some time to appreciate the romance of the occasion as they strove to stem the early fury of Dorchester hurling themselves down their considerable slope. That the fourth division side actually survived for 13 minutes was remarkable for there was little they accomplished in that opening period that was not a mislick or a misplaced pass. And it was such an error, a miscued headed clearance by Compton, following Hobson's long punt downfield, that presented Thorne with a chance he accepted with great aplomb.

More had been expected of Senior, who is bound for Portsmouth once Dorchester's cup run is over, than Thorne, but it was the 25-year-old baker confectioner from nearby Weymouth, who proceeded to unnerve Bournemouth. He was assisted by the constant stream of passes that came from the close-cropped gum-chewing Ames, an archetypal wing-half of old. Together they had Heffernan, once of Spurs, stretched until he and Bournemouth got wise to them in the second half.

It was then for a while that Bournemouth looked a different team playing downhill. Within three minutes they had a penalty after Elay had handled to stop Impey's flick-on from Dawtry's corner. Crawford sent his shot wide from the spot but only two more minutes had elapsed when Funnell did equalize, scoring from an acute angle off an upright after Spackman had dispossessed Chutter.

In their relief and eagerness to witness the event the Bournemouth supporters behind that goal put so much pressure on a flimsy barrier that it collapsed under their weight. As the injured were escorted off, play resumed but surprisingly it was not fourth division stamina that prevailed, but still Southern League enthusiasm. Senior missed Thorne's cross by a fraction, Steele curled a shot against the angle and Hobson acrobatically kept Dorchester in the game by refusing to allow Ames's only mistake to go punished from Spackman's header.

Not even the mean tackling of Williams, Bournemouth's combative midfield player, could dampen Dorchester's spirit. "He is a bit of a lad isn't he", said Thorne, his most pained victim afterwards. By then Dorchester had deservedly lived on to fight another day, on Tuesday at Dean Court if the weather relents, although the prospect of a home tie with Aldershot or Oxford, should they succeed must have made them wonder if all the effort was justified.

DORCHESTER TOWN: S Hobson; T Townsend, S Fley, B Dominey, H Poore, R Ames, A Chutter, H Steele, T Senior, K Miller, P Thorne.

BOURNEMOUTH: I Leigh, T Heffernan, C Bulley, B Smith, P Compton, J Impey, E Dawtry, A Crawford, A Funnell, N Spackman, K Williams.

Referee: L Shapter (Torquay).

Classic plundering makes Sexton feel cheated

By Clive White

Coventry C 0 Manchester C 1

Those three little words that would make any self-respecting football enthusiast cringe with embarrassment tripped easily and unashamedly from Dave Sexton's lips as if they were being uttered for the first time. "We was robbed", he said. And so he and Coventry were. But not by Manchester City.

Having gone to great lengths to protect and clear their Highfield Road pitch of all traces of the white powder when some people were not even sure where their front lawn ended and the public highway began, it turned out that the oddity of a football match in such weather could not compete with the tug of a cosy fireside or a wife intent on Christmas shopping. The 12,000 odd, who braved the elements discovered that even a frosty surface that played as well as this one, holds no favours for either side, save the one who scores first and then can afford to sit back — just as Manchester City did. Thumbing back through one's notes Coventry's hard luck story assumed an exaggerated significance. It is easy to see why Mr Sexton felt cheated. But in reality it was a classic piece of plundering by the away team.

Manchester City struck after eight minutes when Hutchison deflected the taunts of "reject" with a long, hurtful cross on which Tueart's head homed in as if by radar. It was his 11th goal in 18 league and cup games since he failed to make the FA Cup final in May. His appetite for the game is undiminished even after his American adventure.

Numbed still further by the goal, Coventry never broke quickly enough to turn their rivals' defence. Thompson and Hateley were usually forced to play the ball back and the ensuing cross merely provided heating practice for Manchester's sentries.

Coventry's only shots of note in the first hour were an intended cross by Thomas which Corrigan flicked over and a sharply angled header by the otherwise unflustered Gillespie which Blyth, his own goalkeeper, did particularly well to thwart. Later, however, Hunt had a shot nudged just wide. Hendrie fell over in a prime position and Thompson finally awoke from his mid-winter hibernation having feebly missed a dolly of a chance at the start of the half. A Thompson shot against the foot of Corrigan's post did nothing to ease Coventry's anxiety and Manchester's discomfort, as the visiting supporters frequently reminded us. "We are f-freezing," they shivered.

It would seem that they were not the only ones without antifreeze in their tanks. Afterwards Mr Sexton and John Benson, the Manchester City coach, conducted the world's quietest press conference at a level only doting newshounds could hear. Still it must have been easier than listening to John Bond. He'd lost his voice completely.

COVENTRY CITY: J Blyth; D Thomas, B Robert, (sub, J Kaiser), S Jacobs, P Dyson, G Gillespie, J Hendrie, G Daly, G Thomson, M Hateley, S Hunt.

MANCHESTER CITY: J Corrigan, R Ranson, R McDonald, N Reid, K Bond, T Caton, D Tueart, K Reeves, T Francis, A Hartford, T Hutchison.

Referee: S Bates (Bristol).

Caution rules as Spurs collect inevitable point

By Tom German

Leeds United 0 Tottenham 0

Some moments of eccentricity apart, there was an inevitability about events at Elland Road, Leeds, unbeaten at home, in the championship at any rate, against opponents whose results are infinitely better away from White Hart Lane. They met on a pitch where the undersoil heating had left only a thin sprinkling of white, but it still called for a cautious treatment.

Leeds are nothing like so vulnerable as in the early season. Burns has clearly stiffened and, with Hart, made up a stout middle obstacle which Tottenham only once caught in disarray. That was late in the match when Crooks really should have given Spurs their sixth win on opponents' territory. For the rest, Lukic, like Clemence guarding Tottenham's goal, had only a few shots to field and even fewer to tax his agility.

The greater zest came from the Yorkshiremen. Hamson worked with purpose as Leeds spurted in the initial stages of the match. One early header from him might have counted had not a Spurs defender been conveniently in the way. A late volley from Hamson was held safely by Clemence at the foot of the post. But a greater threat to Tottenham came from Graham, in the opening half, as he picked up a stray pass, used pace to create a gap for himself and then only half hit his shot, which trundled wide.

That critical period over, Tottenham's midfield play became ordered and skilful; they were clearly not going to do anything injudicious. Ardiles nursed the ball with careful composure and seemed to pick up everything which ran loose. Hoddle, certainly in the first half, drew on sound footwork

Cricket

Gavaskar's longest stay

From Richard Streeton
Bangalore, Dec 13

An unbeaten 163 by Sunil Gavaskar, over almost 11 hours, dominated India's innings on the fourth day of the second Test here today and ensured a draw. Gavaskar showed relentless concentration and patience in playing one of the great innings, of its type, in Test history.

By the close India were 405 for seven in reply to England's first innings of 400 and tomorrow's final day is only academic.

For two days Gavaskar has shown utter mastery of the England attack. He has so far batted 653 minutes, the longest innings played by an Indian in a Test, and faced 438 balls, with 20 fours.

Yesterday there was an uppish edge at 52 that went near second slip; today he had close calls as his pads were twice rapped.

There were two lofted shots for four that went nowhere near a fieldsman: otherwise the runs were accumulated along the ground safely, mostly off his legs, interspersed with the spasmodic drive for four past cover point's left hand or past extra cover.

At 32 there are no signs that his powers are diminishing. By Gavaskar's standards this innings ended a famine, his 19th innings since his last Test century, when he made 166 against Pakistan at Madras in 1979-80. He batted then for 593 minutes.

There was a splendid spell with the new ball by Lever this morning in which, in 44 balls, he took four for 24 and raised English confidence.

None of the other English bowlers, though, could find the penetration necessary on a pitch which, contrary to some forecasts, remained too docile to provide any chance of a result.

India from the start of their innings yesterday had little option but to take a leaf from England's book and bat for two days at least in their turn. India are one up in the series and had every right to accept England's defensive approach to this match as the standard policy.

In the enforced absence of Willis and with Emburey not present by selectorial choice, England's attack looked threadbare. This must surely be the last occasion in this series when England go into a Test with only four bowlers.

After Lever's great-hearted effort India were 242 for five but Kirti Azad lingered 85 minutes; and Kapil Dev, as at Bombay, swung his bat ambitiously and rellingly with 92 runs coming in 95 minutes for the seventh wicket. Then, in the final hour, Kirmani stayed with Gavaskar.

Possibly, remembering England's collapse at Bombay in the second innings, a more venturesome captain might have declared behind and given England 40 minutes batting this evening. Nobody would have accepted bets on them not losing three wickets.

That, however, is supposition. Inside 15 minutes of the start England had a new ball and Lever's second ball with it was edged by Vengsarkar, playing half forward, for Taylor to take low in front of first slip. This was Taylor's 100th catch in his 31st Test, an unusually high ratio of success. Vengsarkar batted 200 minutes for his 43, and hit only three fours.

Lever went on to earn leg-before decisions against Viswanath, Shastri and Patil, who were all genuinely beaten by balls that came back at them and kept low. It was a wonderfully sustained spell of hostile bowling by Lever, who for the first time on this tour brought the ball back into the batsmen with any regularity.

Shastri's promotion was a significant ploy. He did not stay long this time but his sturdy defence looked far better equipped to thwart the new ball than Patil's undisciplined driving.

Gavaskar reached 99 with fours past mid-on and cover from successive balls by Lever and received his first garland of flowers from a lone spectator.

A further 20 minutes elapsed before Gavaskar pushed Lever for an offside single to reach his 24th Test hundred after seven hours and nine minutes batting. Only Sobers, with 26, and Bradman, with 29, are ahead of him in the record book, although this was only his fourth hundred against England. An invasion by young spectators followed, in which Gavaskar was quite roughly handled.

Kirti Azad looked resolute against the England quicker bowlers but prodded a catch to silly point as soon as Underwood bowled. Then came Kapil Dev's free-striking innings which included a six against Underwood over a long-on.

On a day of clouds and a slight breeze, England generally stuck to their task well in a mere 78 degrees. Lever returned shortly after tea and when Kapil Dev swished once too often and Taylor took the catch, Lever had taken five wickets in an innings for the third time in his Test career, all against India.

Fletcher's apology: Keith Fletcher has apologized for breaking the wicket after being given out in England's first innings. In a letter to S. K. Wankhede, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, he said his action was only an act of disappointment.

He wrote: "I am writing to express my apologies for the incident on Thursday afternoon, when I tapped the wicket after my dismissal. Although it was only an act of disappointment, it should not have happened and I am therefore sending you this note."

ENGLAND: First Innings, 400 (D I Gower 82, G A Gooch 58, I T Botham 50, C R Dilley 52; R J Shastri 4 for 83).

INDIA: First Innings

*S M Gavaskar, not out	163
K Srikanth, c Gooch, b Botham	65
D B Vengsarkar, c Taylor, b Lever	43
G R Viswanath, l-b-w, b Lever	3
R J Shastri, l-b-w, b Lever	1
S M Patil, l-b-w, b Lever	17
K Azad, c Fletcher, b Underwood	24
Kapil Dev, c Taylor, b Lever	59
†S M H Kirmani, not out	7
Extras (b3 l-b 10, w 2, n-b 8)	23
Total (7 wkts)	405

S Madan Lal and D R Doshi to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—102, 2—122, 3—208, 4—214, 5—242, 6—284, 7—376.

BOWLING: (to date) Botham, 41—6—128—1; Dilley, 24—4—75—0; Lever, 36—9—100—5; Underwood, 37—18—73—1.

Chappell calls pitch a disgrace

From Peter McFarline
Melbourne, December 13

Australia were fighting to save the third and final Test match against Pakistan as the controversial Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch came in for more criticism today. At the close of the third day, Australia were 197 for four in their first innings, replying to Pakistan's first innings of 500 for eight declared.

At the end of play the Australian captain Greg Chappell, called the wicket "a disgrace" and said it was "an embarrassment to have to play against another country on it". Although none of the 12 batsmen dismissed in the match so far can attribute their demise directly to the wicket, the surface has been so slow that strokemaking, as well as pace bowling, has been impossible.

Chappell, a consistent critic of the MCG wicket, said the first Test match against West Indies, which is due to start at the ground on December 26, should be moved elsewhere. But, in a bitter mood, he said the lethargy of Australian cricket administrators would prevent any positive move resulting from his criticism.

The Pakistanis assumed control of this match with a patient first innings display and the help of some impetuous Australian batting. Pakistan batted until half an hour before the close of the second day before declaring. Although no one reached a century, there were good displays from Zaheer Abbas (90), Javed Miandad (62), Wasim Raja (50) and Imran Khan (70 not out) to build on the start given by Mudassar Nazar (95) and Majid Khan (74).

None of the vaunted Australian pace attack, Lillee, Thomson and Alderman, took a wicket. In fact, no pace bowler has achieved any success in the first three days of the match, but the Australian off spinner, Yardley, returned the best figures of his international career, seven for 137 from 66 overs.

Australia, who scored 15 for no wicket in 20 minutes' batting yesterday evening, were given a solid start of 75 in 113 minutes by Laird and Wood (78 not out). Laird sacrificed his wicket with a wild swing at the left-arm spinner, Iqbal Qasim, to open up a vulnerable Australian middle order. Chappell made only 22, Border was run out for seven in a misunderstanding with Wood, and Hughes scored 34. Only Wood showed the patience needed on such a wicket, lasting so far five hours and 10 minutes for his runs.

Australia's plight would have been worse if the Pakistan fielding had been sharper. Wood was missed at 57 and 64 and Chappell should have been stumped by Wasim Bari before he had scored. The Australians need another 104 runs to avoid the indignity of a follow-on, with Wood and Wellham the last of the remaining recognized batsmen. Seventy-one minutes' play was lost to rain today and with the wicket certain to get slower (if that is possible) and lower, Australia's chances of saving the game will depend very much of the weather.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Mudassar Nazar, c Lillee, b Yardley	95
Mohsin Khan, c Thomson, b Yardley	17
Majid Khan, c Wood, b Yardley	74
*Javed Miandad, l-b-w, b Yardley	62
Zaheer Abbas, c and b Yardley	90
Wasim Raja, c Laird, b Yardley	50
Imran Khan, not out	70
Sarfraz Nawaz, c Yardley, b Chappell	0
†Wasim Bari, b Yardley	0
Iqbal Qasim, not out	16
Extras (b1, lb8, nb12)	18
Total (8 wkts dec)	500

Sikander Bakht did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—40, 2—181, 3—201, 4—329, 5—363, 6—443, 7—444, 8—456.

BOWLING: Lillee, 36.3—10—100—0; Alderman, 27—8—62—0; 16—0; Chappell, 1—0—17—1; Thomson, 25—3—85—0; Yardley, 66—16—137—7; Border, 3—1—7—0; Hughes, 3—1—5—0; Laird, 1—0—9—0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

G M Wood, not out	78
B M Laird, l-b-w, b Qasim	33
*G S Chappell, c Bari, b Raja	22
A R Border, run out	7
K J Hughes, c and b Qasim	34
D MacD Wellham, not out	13
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Extras (lb5, nb3)	8
Total (4 wkts)	197

†R W Marsh, B Yardley, D K Lillee, T M Alderman and J R Thomson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—75, 2—118, 3—127, 4—173.

BOWLING (to date): Imran, 13—3—26—0; Sarfraz, 6—1—24—0; Raja, 33—6—67—1; Qasim, 37—12—69—2; Sikander, 2—0—9—0.

Richards bowls W Indies near to victory

Brisbane, Dec 13.—Vivian Richards put the West Indians within one wicket of victory over Queensland with career best bowling figures of four for 77 on the third day of their four-day match. The state side had followed on 374 runs behind and Richards found plenty of turn for his off breaks on a wearing wicket to leave them 104 runs behind with nine second-innings wickets down.

Only Wessels, Ritchie and the wicketkeeper Phillips, offered resistance in the second innings. Ritchie, who was top scorer in the first innings, hit seven fours and two sixes in a sparkling display. Marshall was the main destroyer of the first innings when he strengthened his claims for a Test match place by taking five for 31 in 18 overs.

Gomes scored the first double century of his career in the West Indians' total of 539 for seven declared, which also included a century by Richards. Lloyd delayed his declaration until Gomes, who was 116 not out on Friday, had reached 200; he batted for eight hours and hit 22 fours, sharing a sixth-wicket stand of 136 with Lloyd, whose contribution was a vigorous 68 with eight fours.

WEST INDIANS: First Innings

C G Greenidge, c Kerr, b Dymock	1
D L Haynes, c Phillips, b de Jong	12
I V A Richards, c Ritchie, b Hohns	121
H A Gomes, not out	200
S F A Bacchus, c Kerr, b Maguire	85
M A Holding, c Ritchie, b Lillie	24
*C H Lloyd, c Phillips, b de Jong	68
†P J Dujon, l-b-w, b Hohns	0
A M E Roberts, not out	0
Extras (b 4, l-b 4, n-b 19)	27
Total (7 wkts dec)	539

M D Marshall and S T Clarke did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—1, 2—40, 3—167, 4—350, 5—385, 6—521, 7—526.

BOWLING: Maguire, 27—6—97—1; Dymock, 30—10—73—1; de Jong, 17—2—71—2; Lillie, 33—3—166—1; Hohns, 37.4—9—105—2; Wessels, 1—1—0—0.

QUEENSLAND: First Innings

K C Wessels, c Bacchus, b Roberts	13
R Kerr, l-b-w, b Holding	20
M A Gaskell, c Dujon, b Clarke	0
G Ritchie, b Holding	56
A D Parker, c Dujon, b Marshall	8
T V Hohns, c Lloyd, b Marshall	18
K de Jong, l-b-w, b Marshall	1
†R B Phillips, not out	16
*G Dymock, c Dujon, b Marshall	10
J N Maguire, run out	0
D J Lillie, b Marshall	0
Extras (b 10, l-b 4, n-b 10)	24
Total	165

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—20, 2—25, 3—90, 4—97, 5—135, 6—138, 7—143, 8—164, 9—165, 10—165.

BOWLING: Clarke, 7—1—23—1; Roberts, 12—1—29—1; Marshall, 18—8—31—5; Holding, 12—3—29—3; Richards, 12—5—30—0.

Second Innings

K C Wessels, b Richards	57
R Kerr, c Dujon, b Clarke	16
M A Gaskell, b Richards	4
G Ritchie, b Holding	71
A D Parker, c Lloyd, b Richards	9
T V Hohns, b Richards	19
K de Jong, not out	13
†R B Phillips, l-b-w, b Clarke	51
*G Dymock, b Gomes	8
J N Maguire, l-b-w, b Clarke	0
D J Lillie, not out	8
Extras (b 12, lb 4, nb 4)	20
Total (9 wkts)	270

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—62, 2—80, 3—85, 4—88, 5—148, 6—207, 7—250, 8—250, 9—261.—Reuter.

Hookes in trouble

Sydney, Dec 13.—David Hookes, the South Australia captain and former Test batsman, was charged by the umpires under the players' code of behaviour today. When rain fell with South Australia 11 runs short of victory, Hookes wanted to continue but the New South Wales captain, McCosker, disagreed. The batsmen held their ground as ground staff attempted to cover the pitch; Hookes protested to the umpires and appeared to knock down the stumps

SCORES: New South Wales 271 and 250 for 5 dec (R B McCosker 136 not out); South Australia 268 (R G Holland 6 for 46) and 243 for 9 (J J Crowe 137 not out, W M Darling 52). Match drawn.—Reuter.

Athletics

Snow men: the white world of Crystal Palace is disturbed only by a ribbon of runners.

Cross-country

McLeod wins in the risk business

By Norman Fox

Cross-country must have seemed a "good risk" when the Provincial Insurance Company decided to sponsor the annual international race at Crystal Palace. Cross-country runners do it in all weathers, and the television people like the idea of covering something right under their own mast.

Had it not been for all of those people who made such efforts to move from the fireside to turn on their televisions on Saturday, the race might not have taken place. Not wishing to let them down, runners flew in from Portugal, and Gateshead, and even the United States, but an awful lot were unable to arrive, strangely including the English national champion, Julian Goater, who was stranded as far north as Hendon.

Patriotically, Mike McLeod struggled down from the north east "because I was asked to run for my country". When he arrived, it seemed unlikely that his country would raise a team unless some fitter members of the press made up the numbers. The organizers decided to combine an inter-area race with the international event and McLeod was in such good form he could have won both races if they had been held consecutively.

Apart from the early strides, when it was necessary to test the piste and avoid some incompetent skiers and a fallen oak, he led as comfortably as he had in five previous victories during the preceding six weeks.

McLeod was the winner of the Golden 10,000 metres races last season, and the previous summer, and his ambitions, concern the track rather than the country. But before next year's European championships and the Commonwealth Games he could be the new national cross-country champion, and have a chance of success in the world championships, which are supposed to be in Warsaw next March, but must now be at risk.

After Christmas, he goes to train in the comparative warmth of Portugal. The sense in that plan was confirmed by a small team of Portuguese, who, bravely, travelled to Crystal Palace on Saturday but were not the least convinced by our delight that it was "real, dry snow", and that it was not "all that cold".

Most of the visitors to Britain left the race to McLeod, who led from start of the second lap of the 8,500 metres event and was only briefly caught by Gerry Deegan, of the Republic of Ireland, who had a terrible start, but caught up magnificently. David Lewis, the Northern junior champion, did reduce McLeod's lead to six seconds on the last lap, but was never likely to catch him.

Another Northern champion, Julie Naughton, said the snow did not slow her down as much as she expected when winning the 4,500 metres women's event, but no one actually admitted to liking the experience, although such people do exist. Miss Laughton and Carol Bradford, from Wales, made a splendid race.

INTERNATIONAL RACE: 1, M McLeod (England) 28 mins 49 secs; 2, D Lewis (England) 28:55; 3, B Knight (England) 29:01; 4, G Deegan (Republic of Ireland) 29:05; 5, B Treadwell (South) 29:12; 6, P Porter (US) 29:18.

WOMEN'S RACE: 1, J Laughton (North) 17 mins 10 secs; 2, C Bradford (Wales) 17:14; 3, J Furniss (North) 17:54; 4, C Boxer (South) 17:54; 5, D Peel (South) 17:56; 6, B Arthurton (North) 17:57.

Tennis

Argentina throw away a golden chance of glory

From John Ballantine
Cincinati, Dec 13

The gruelling doubles match in which John McEnroe and Peter Fleming yesterday defeated Guillermo Vilas and Jose-Luis Clerc of the Argentine, 6—3, 4—6, 6—4, 4—6, 11—9, to give the United States a 2—1 lead in the Davis Cup final, had, as they say, everything. Everything, that is, except what would have been the glittering fairy atop this huge christmas tree of a contest, victory for the gallant Argentines.

Did they deserve it? Not really, because they had their chances and threw them away, or else had them wrenched from their grasp during the four hours and 52 minutes on court. Vilas served for the match at 7—6 in the fifth set after one of his forehand rockets had nearly knocked off McEnroe's head and had broken Fleming's service.

Four hours earlier Vilas might have approached the task of winning this game, and thereby of winning the match and probably the final itself, with equanimity. In his first three service games, he lost only two points. This time, he was broken comprehensively to love.

In the next game, however, McEnroe was twice break point down, once when Clerc hit a perfect top spin lob—one of the Argentine's most effective "secret weapons" throughout the match—and once when Vilas appeared from nowhere behind the back of his beaten partner to thunder another top-spun winner.

At 9—10, Clerc served a double fault to 15-all. It was called late by a black line judge, at whom, at another point of the match McEnroe had snarled "Come on, boy", an expression which carries racial overtones here which McEnroe later denied.

The British umpire, Bob Jenkins, of Llanelli, who was told by McEnroe once "You ought to be executed, shot, after this match," but who, nevertheless, did a sterling job, upheld the obviously good call despite Argentine protests.

Tiny-all, and, after a long and incredibly adept volley duel at point-blank range, Fleming put up a weak lob, which dropped inside Clerc's service court. Vilas crouched to give his partner an easier view, but Clerc smashed this absolute "sitter" a yard wide of the sideline. On this second match point, for 23 minutes in the second set for repairs to the court, the usual McEnroe returned a perfect forehand to the feet of the inrushing Clerc, who ballooned the half-volley yards out.

RESULTS (US names first): J McEnroe beat G Vilas, 6—3, 6—2, 6—2; R Tanner lost to J-L Clerc, 7—5, 6—3, 8—6; McEnroe and P Fleming beat Vilas and Clerc, 6—3, 4—6, 6—4, 4—6, 11—9.

Squash rackets

Guernsey girls swim in a big pool

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Angela Smith (Staffordshire), once champion and twice runner-up, will play Lisa Opie (Nottinghamshire), 10 years her junior, in this evening's final of the British women's national championship, sponsored by Just Juice, at the Wembley Squash Centre. This was the final predicted by the seedings and it means that, to the last, the championship will continue to be a squash-playing version of the generation game.

In yesterday's semi-final round, Miss Smith, aged 28, beat Martina le Moignan (Nottinghamshire), 15, by 9—1, 6—9, 10—9, 9—7. This match was considerably more exciting, especially in the third game, than that in which Miss Opie, a potter's daughter, won 9—4, 8—10, 9—1, 9—4 against Susan Cogswell (Warwickshire), aged 30. Champion five times in the past six years, Miss Cogswell beat Miss le Moignan in last season's final.

Miss Opie and Miss le Moignan, who rank fourth and sixth in the world, live at Nottingham, but both come from Guernsey, where 10 courts serve a population of about 50,000. It says much for Guernsey, but not much for the rest of Britain, that two sturdy teenagers from an island off the coast of France should so quickly acquire national prominence. Big fish in small pools are not necessarily small fish in big pools.

Rugby Union

Baird gets his chance against Australians

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Scotland have chosen one new cap, Roger Baird, of Kelso, for the international against Australia at Murrayfield next Saturday. He will play on the left wing, with Keith Robertson (Melrose) switched to the right flank in place of Steve Munro (Ayr).

The pack is exactly that which played two losing internationals in New Zealand last summer, and then participated in a 12-6 victory over Romania in appalling conditions at Murrayfield in September. Its leader, Jim Aitken (Gala), has resisted the challenge of Gerry McGuinness, the West of Scotland loose-head prop, as well as overcoming the setback of being dropped by his district selectors. Both Aitken and the Scottish No 9 Ian Paxton were left out of the South side which drew 12-12 with Edinburgh at the weekend.

Baird was a scrum half at Merchiston Castle when he played for Scottish Schools in 1978. Now 21, he has been a member of three successful Scotland B teams and with his stylish, balanced running has scored 17 tries in his 19 games for the South district. His trip to New Zealand earlier this year seems to have brought more confidence and aggression to his game, and it could be that he has won the vote over Munro because of his sounder defence.

The Selkirk stand off, John Rutherford, who missed the Romanian match through injury, must prove his fitness after taking a knock on the knee when playing for the South on Saturday. Crossman, who was to have been his understudy was injured in the first half in the match against the Australians. Rutherford seems confident of resuming a half-back partnership with Roy Laidlaw which has served Scotland well in nine internationals. The Jedforest scrum half has had a frustrating season with injuries, so it is no surprise to learn that he looked a bit rusty on Saturday.

Andy Irvine will be winning his 45th cap, and moving ahead of Alastair McHarg, into second place behind Sandy Carmichael (50) in the Scottish list. Jim Renwick, the world's most capped centre, will be playing for his country for the forty-third time, equalling the number of caps won by the "iMighty Mouse", Ian McLauchlan.

SCOTLAND: A R Irvine (Heriot's FP, captain); K W Robertson (Melrose), J M Renwick (Hawick), D I Johnston (Watsonians), G R T Baird (Kelso); J Y Rutherford (Selkirk), R J Laidlaw (Jedforest); J Aitken (Gala), C T Deans (Hawick), I G Milne (Heriot's FP), W Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock), A J Tomes (Hawick), J H Calder (Stewart's Melville FP), I A M Paxton (Selkirk), D G Leslie (Gala). Replacements: G M McGuinness (West of Scotland), G J Callander (Kelso), D White (Gala), D Wilson (Boroughmuir), B H Hay (Boroughmuir).

The Australian centres, Mike Hawker and Mick O'Connor, return after injury for tomorrow's eighteenth tour game against the North and Midlands at Aberdeen, the Exchange Telegraph reports. O'Connor was selected for the Welsh International last weekend but had to withdraw with a knee injury, while Hawker hurt his shoulder during the game.

TEAM: R Gould; M Cox, M O'Connor, M Hawker, B Moon; P McLean, P Cox; D Curran, L Walker, S Pilecki, C Roche, M Mathers, D Hall, S Poidevin, M Loane (captain).

Glasgow are frozen out on their electric blanket

By Iain Mackenzie
Glasgow 0 Australia 31

In freezing conditions at Murrayfield on Saturday (the game had been transferred from Glasgow where even a foot of straw failed to keep out the frost) the electric blanket just about managed to cope. Glasgow did not, and although they were only 7-0 down at the interval, it was obvious that the only question to be answered in the second half was the margin of defeat. It was considerable; Australia won by seven tries and a penalty goal to nil and more accurate kicking would have contributed to even greater embarrassment.

It was 28 minutes into the game before Australia scored. From a scrum the ball went out to Mark Ella who is renowned for his straight running. Ella did not disappoint his team-mates as he flashed over the line for the first of those tries. He failed to convert that one but compensated to some extent with a penalty goal.

Ella was not on kicking form, however. He missed two easy chances in the second half and although Glasgow kept plugging away it was clear that the Australians were well in command. Toward the end Glasgow collapsed completely and the tourists overran them. There was a try by Glen Ella and another by Peter Lucas before in the last few minutes Glen Ella crossed the line again to be followed, in almost embarrassingly quick succession, by Grigg, Martin and Shaw.

GLASGOW: J Hodgkinson (Glasgow HSFP); S Munro (West of Scotland), J Barrie (Kilmarnock), J Guesman (West of Scotland); rep. S Kerr (Glasgow Academicals), A Armstrong (Jordanhill); B Gossman (West of Scotland), G Nicholson (Ayr); G McGuinness (West of Scotland), W Jones (Kilmarnock), H Campbell (Jordanhill), D Williams (Kilmarnock), W Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock, captain), D Gray (West of Scotland), H C Hamilton (Kilmarnock), G McCollum (Ayr); D Smith (West of Scotland).

AUSTRALIA: Glen Ella; P Grigg, Gary Ella, A Slack, M Martin; Mark Ella, A Parker; J Meadows, C Carberry, P D'Arcy, S Williams, P Lucas, P McLean, A Shaw (captain), G Cornelsen.

Referee: C High (Lancashire Soc).

Glasgow are frozen out on their electric blanket

By Iain Mackenzie
Edinburgh 12 Scottish 12

Eight penalty goals, shared between those Scottish veterans, Andy Irvine and Jim Renwick, mean that the Anglo-Scots could be in line for the Scottish inter-district championship at the first time of asking. Edinburgh and the South, the holders, have both still to play the Anglos.

If they can avoid defeat in both games the Anglo-Scots will be left with the simple task of winning their rearranged fixture with North and Midlands to take the title.

The South never really got going and certainly did not play anything like as well as they did last year in Jedburgh when they beat Edinburgh convincingly to regain the title. In the heart of their own territory Edinburgh adapted well to the circumstances and should have won. They were the livelier side and displayed an ingenuity which the South never matched. The first penalty goal came as early as the third minute when Irvine slotted a simple one over but this was neutralized by Renwick eight minutes later. Irvine's next penalty attempt came after 17 minutes.

After 30 minutes Scotland's No 2 scrum half, Lawson, was injured, and his rival, Laidlaw, tried to capitalize on his absence, but that led only to another penalty kick for Edinburgh which Irvine secured. Lawson returned in time to watch Renwick knock over another penalty and then the Hawick player pulled the South level with his third kick.

The South went into the lead for the first time in the second half when Renwick struck a difficult kick over the bar off a post. At that point it looked as though the title was set to remain in the Borders, but with the Boroughmuir pair, Wilson and Hay, working cleverly the South gave away their fourth kickable chance and Irvine was only too glad to accept it.

EDINBURGH: A Irvine (Heriot's FP); W Gammell (Heriot's FP), E Kennedy (Watsonians), D Johnston (Watsonians), R Hay (Boroughmuir); D Wilson (Boroughmuir), A Lawson (Heriot's, captain); D Cockburn (Boroughmuir), B Black (Boroughmuir), A Rowan (Boroughmuir), G Millar (Heriot's FP), A Dunlop (Heriot's FP), Jim Calder, P Calder, John Calder (all Stewart's-Melville FP).

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND: P Dods (Gala); K Robertson (Melrose), A Cranston (Jedforest), J Renwick (Hawick), R Baird (Kelso); J Rutherford (Selkirk, captain), R Laidlaw (Jedforest); B Hislop (Langholm), G Runciman (Melrose), R Cunningham (Gala), A Tomes (Hawick), K Macaulay (Gala), G Dickson (Gala), D Leslie (Gala), E Paxton (Kelso).

Referee: J Campbell (Kilmarnock).

Badminton

Holders retain their titles

By Iain Mackenzie

For the first time ever, all five title holders made successful defences at the Scottish national championships, at Meadowbank, Edinburgh, yesterday.

In the men's singles final, Charlie Gallagher, of Perth, recovered from a poor start to beat Dan Travers, from Glasgow, 15—10, 18—13. Gallagher had previously overcome Gordon Hamilton (Edinburgh) 15—5, 15—5 with considerable ease. Travers had beaten Alex White 15—8, 15—12.

In the women's singles final Pamela Hamilton, now based in Surrey, had her expected win against another Anglo-Scot, Alison Fulton, 11—3, 11—8. Both women are now resident in the south of England and have obviously benefited from the additional practice.

Miss Hamilton, however, had to struggle a little in the semi-finals before overcoming Christine Heatly, from Edinburgh, 11—1, 10—12, 11—8. Mrs Fulton had won her semi-final 11—7, 11—6 against the former Scottish champion, Joanna Flockhart.

In the men's doubles final Billy Gilliland and Dan Travers had little difficulty in beating Andrew Baker and Gallagher 15—9, 18—15, 15—1. Gilliland and Travers lost their way slightly in the second set but came through in the final set without any problems.

The women's doubles went, as expected, to Miss Hamilton and Mrs Fulton. They came through the earlier rounds almost without trouble and in the semi-final beat Mrs Flockhart and Gillian Martin, 15—3, 15—9. In the final they were equally ahead, winning 15—1, 15—5 against Christine Heatly and Linda Gardner.

The event reached its climax with the mixed doubles final, in which Gilliland and Miss Heatly beat Baker and Miss Gardner, 15—10, 15—8. That was entirely as expected and completed the five victories for the holders.

RESULTS: Singles: semi-finals: D Travers beat A White, 15—8, 15—12; C Gallagher beat G Hamilton, 15—5, 15—5. Final: Gallagher beat Travers, 15—10, 18—13. Doubles: semi-finals: A Baker and Gallagher beat Hamilton and White, 15—4, 15—5; W Gilliland and Travers beat D Joiner and D Shaylor, 15—3, 15—5. Final: Gilliland and Travers beat Baker and Gallagher, 15—9, 10—15, 15—1.

WOMEN: Singles: Semi-finals: P Hamilton beat C Heatly 11—1, 10—12, 11—8; G Martin beat J Flockhart, 11—7, 11—5. Final: Miss Hamilton beat Miss Martin, 11—3, 11—8. Doubles: semi-finals: Mrs Fulton and Miss Hamilton beat Mrs Flockhart and Miss Martin, 15—3, 18—9; Miss Gardner and Miss Heatly beat J Ramsay and M McLean, 18—9, 15—1. Final: Mrs Fulton and Miss Hamilton beat Mrs Heatly and Miss Gardner, 15—4, 15—3.

MIXED DOUBLES: Semi-finals: G Hamilton and Mrs Flockhart beat A Baker and Miss Gardner, 15—1, 15—4; Gilliland and Miss Heatly beat Joiner and Mrs Ramsay, 15—5, 15—4. Final: Gilliland and Miss Heatly beat Baker and Miss Gardner, 15—10, 15—8.

National swing to the left

By Richard Eaton

Two left-handers, Stephen Baddeley, aged 20, a human biology student at Chelsea College, and Jaen Webster, 25, an occasional Dunstable bank clerk, sponsored by Crest Hotels at became the new English national badminton champions in the event Coventry Sports Centre yesterday. Baddeley, ranked four, beat Andy Goode, ranked five, 18—13, 15—8, and Miss Webster, ranked three, beat Helen Troke, five, 11—3, 11—8. Every title changed hands in the biggest upheaval English badminton has known.

Part of the explanation—the advent of the open game and rising standards that inevitably follow—made it ironic that Baddeley prepared for the tournament by getting up at 7 am each day to train before studying, while Miss Webster went back to work full time for a fortnight and played some squash.

This, though, should change. Baddeley's strong overheads and all-round attacking skills were too much for Goode, winner against both the holder, Ray Stevens, and the No 2 seed, Nick Yates, and should more than justify his decision to become a licensed player when he finishes his studies in May.

Miss Webster, at first predominantly a singles player, then gained her first big successes by becoming world, All-England and European doubles champion with Nora Perry. That has helped her to a new confidence and yesterday's first important singles success should mean they will see less and less of her in the bank.

Baddeley, who also bear the top seed, Kevin Jolly, looks a particularly interesting prospect. He has a steady temperament, is a keen analyst of the game and yet is also flexible enough to change ideas in midstream.

SECOND DIVISION: Leicester City 4, Watford 1; Queen's Park Rangers 1, Barnsley 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton T	18	13	3	3	41	19	41
Watford	18	10	4	4	29	20	34
Oldham A	18	9	6	3	38	17	33
Queens Pk R	19	10	3	6	27	23	33
Barnsley	19	9	3	7	30	31	30
Sheffield W	18	8	5	6	23	22	30
Chelsea	18	8	4	6	25	26	28
Rotherham R	18	7	5	6	19	17	26
Leicester C	18	6	7	5	24	19	25
Newcastle U	19	7	3	8	25	19	24
Cardiff C	18	7	3	8	29	28	24
Norwich C	18	7	3	8	21	27	24
Crystal Palace	17	7	2	8	14	14	23
Shrewsbury T	18	6	5	7	19	24	23
Charlton A	18	6	4	8	27	31	22
Derby Co	18	6	4	8	23	30	22
Rotherham U	17	6	3	8	25	25	21
Cambridge U	18	7	0	11	26	29	21
Wrexham	18	5	5	10	20	36	18
Orient	18	5	3	10	12	30	18
Grimsby T	16	4	5	7	17	27	17
Bolton W	18	5	1	12	13	27	16

field 0, Huddersfield Town 1; Doncaster Rovers 3, Penrith 0; Dorchester 1, Bournemouth 1; York City 0, Altrincham 0.

SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Arbroath 0, Meadowbank 2.

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Hamilton 0, Clydebank 3; Kilmarnock 0, St Johnstone 2.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Dundee 3, Airdrieonians 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	25	11	3	11	34	15	25
Dundee U	14	7	4	3	26	13	18
St Mirren	15	7	4	4	23	18	18
Aberdeen	15	7	4	4	21	16	18
Rangers	14	8	0	6	25	20	16
Morton	15	5	3	7	16	21	13
Hibernian	15	3	6	6	14	14	12
Dundee	16	2	1	13	16	36	11
Airdrieonians	16	2	5	9	13	30	11
Partick T	15	2	4	9	12	22	8

IRISH LEAGUE: Portadown 2, Bangor 0.
All other matches postponed

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern: Gosport 2, Poole 1.

MIDLAND LEAGUE: Boston 0, Ashby 0

FA VASE: Second round: Pagham 1, Windsor and Eton 2; Swanage 0, Newbury 2; Newquay 1, Devizes 3; Banham Red Star 3, Guisley 1; Brockenhurst 1, Yate 0; Winterton Rangers 0, Skegness Town 0 (abandoned).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Workington 1, Witton Albion 0; Grantham 2, Southport 1.

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 4, Bridport 0; Dawlish 2, Clandown 1; Liskeard 2, Weston-super-Mare 2.

European leagues

WEST GERMAN: Cologne 3, Eintracht Brunswick 0; Arminia Bielefeld 1, Bayern Munich 2; VFL Bochum 0, Borussia Dortmund 0; Nuremberg 4, Kaiserslautern 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 4, Karlsruher SC 1; VFB Stuttgart 1, SV Darmstadt 98 0.

ITALIAN: Ascoli 1, Juventus 0; Bologna 0, Fiorentina 2; Cagliari 1, Genoa 1; Como 0, Udinese 2; AC Milan 0, Genoa 0; Napoli 2, Inter Milan 0; Turin 1, Avellino 1.

SPANISH: Cadiz 0, Las Palmas 2; Betis 2, Gijon 0; Real Madrid 4, Castellon 0; Athletic Bilbao 1, Barcelona 1; Osasuna 2, Santander 1; Espanol 3, Real Sociedad 1; Valencia 1, Atletico Madrid 0; Zaragoza 4, Sevilla 1; Valladolid 1, Mercedes 0.

FRENCH: Nice 0, Lyon 0; Paris St Germain 2, Metz 0; Lens 4, Tours 3; Brest 2, Bastia 0; Auxerre 0, Laval 1; Nantes 7, Montpellier 0.

BELGIAN: Malines 0, Andelecht 1; RWD Molenbeek 2, Lierse 0; Gheal 3, Courtrai 0; Beveren 1, Lokeren 1; Waregem 3, Tongres 3; Antwerp 1, Standard Liege 2, CS Bruges 2, Waterschei 3.

AUSTRIAN: Austria Salzburg 4, Sportclub Wien 1; Admira Wacker 1, Voest Linz 0;

Skiing

Bartelski's remarkable run brings him in from the cold

By John Hennessy

Konrad Bartelsk, the 27-year-old son of a naturalized Pole, achieved the most remarkable result in the history of British skiing yesterday. He finished second to Erwin Resch, of Austria, in a World Cup downhill race at Val Gardena, Italy, beaten by only 11/100ths o fa second. You have to go back to the 60s to find a parallel case, to Gina Hathorn's second place in the SDS slalom at Grindelwald.

But whereas Miss Hathorn, second to none as a technician, always had such a result within her powers, time seemed to have passed Bartelski by. In particular, his 63rd place in the first downhill of the season, at Val d'Isére a week ago, seemed to suggest that he was now a forlorn hope. The promise held out by his 15th place in the world championship downhill at St Moritz in 1974 and his 12th place in the last winter Olympics at Lake Placid, two years ago, was now surely dissipated.

Beyond all that, the portents at Val Gardena were discouraging. He had not gone well in training, apparently at odds with his skis, and he had to tackle yesterday's race with a heavy cold, his eyes watering and his nose blocked up.

Yet Bartelski, starting well behind the first privileged group, took a lead at first intermediary point and was a fifth of a second ahead of Resch at the second. He could not quite match the Austrian's finish and, indeed, nearly came to grief in a flat light at the final bump which he landing in a sitting position. He managed to stand up, however, and was soon flourishing his skis in triumph with a huge smile on his face. Resch, himself, could not have been more delighted.

He had shown guts as well as courage and when he later answered a call from a friend with "I've got the bottle," he was referring to champagne but hs might just as well have been using the term in its modern colloquial sense.

Asked afterwards why he had done so well, Bartelski said he had been as surprised as anyone. "If I knew the magic ingredient I'd put it in a bottle and market it." He didn't even know he'd done so well, "But when I finished and heard some people cheering I thought it might be a bit better; then I turned round and saw 2 min 7 sec and thought 'Blimey that's a bit fast.'"

So near to being the fastest.

1, E Resch (Austria, 2min 07.03sec; 2, K Bartelski (GB), 2:07.34; 3, L Stock (Austria, 2:07.81; 4, S Podborski (Canada), 2:07.91; 5, M Cornaz (Italy), 2:08.33; 6, B Flaschberger (Austria) 2:08.37; 7, F Klammer (Austria), 2:08.61; 8, P Wirnsberger (Austria), 2:08.69; 9, T Buergler (Switzerland), 2:08.99; 10, S Mell (Switzerland), 2:09.09. Other British placings: 56, F Burton, 2:12.94; 64, R Duncan, 2:16.48.

Leading men's alpine positions after four events: 1, P Mahre (USA), 95pts; 2, A Wenzel (Liechtenstein), 46; 3, I Stenmark (Sweden), 35; 4, Franz Klammer (Austria), 34; E Resch, 34; 6, L Stock, 30; P Mueller (Switzerland), 30; 8, J Gaspoz (Switzerland), 27; 9, S Podborski, 24; 10, T Buergler, 22; 11, K Bartelski, 20.

Leading World Cup downhill positions: 1, F Klammer, 34; E Resch 34; 3, S Podborski, 24; 4, T Buergler, 22; 5, P Mueller, 20; K Bartelski, 20.

Miss Wenzel wins: Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein, the double olympic champion, returned to the winner's rostrum for the first time in 21 months with an impressive victory in the World Cup slalom event at Piancavallo.

The World Cup champion of 1978 and 1980 showed the form that could help her continue the pattern of winning the cup every second year with a virtuoso demonstration of her slalom technique. She completed the two-leg, 117-gate course, in a total time of one minute 45.17 seconds, 38 hundredths faster than Erika Hess of Switzerland, winner of the last six women's World Cup slalom events.

Miss Wenzel, moves up to second place in the World Cup standings with 52 points, two behind West Germany's Irene Epple, who won the two giant slaloms which opened the women's season, but failed to master Saturday's fog-bound course and came in twelfth.

Konrad Bartelski: splendid runner-up in downhill.

WORLD CUP SLALOM: 1, H Wenzel (Liechtenstein) 1 min 45.17 sec (52.79 and 52.18); 2, E Hess (Switzerland) 1:45.55 (53.07, 52.48); 3, U Konzett (Liechtenstein) 1:46.03 (53.87, 52.16); 4, P Pelen (France) 1:46.75 (53.54, 53.21); 5, M-R Quario (Italy) 1:47.34 (54.76, 52.58); 6, C Cooper (US) 1:47.46 (54.38, 53.08); 7, P Marchi (Italy) 1:48.28 (53.69, 53.59); 8, A Kronbichler (Austria) 1:48.60 (55.51, 53.09); 9, I Soelkner (Austria) 1:48.75 (55.05, 53.70); 10, D Zini (Italy) 1:48.81 (55.39, 53.42); D Tlalka (Poland) 1:48.81 (55.99, 52.82).

WOMEN'S WORLD SKI CUP standings: 1, E Hess 76 points; 2, H Wenzel 72; 3, I Epple 53; M-R Quario 45; 5, P Pelen 32; 6, T McKinney 30; 7, U Konzett 24; 8, M Epple 23; 9, D Zini 20.

Swimming

Salnikov is 18 seconds clear of rest of world

By Athole Still

Vladimir Salnikov, of the Soviet Union, yesterday shattered his own world best 1,500m freestyle time by the astonishing margin of eight seconds. Competing on the final day of the 15-nation short-course European Cup meeting, sponsored by Ladbroke Hotels, at Barnet Copthall, north London, he set a time of 14min 44.09sec.

Salnikov, who had already improved his own world best time for 400m freestyle by 1.3 seconds on Saturday, now stands 18 seconds ahead of the next fastest performer of all time, Bobby Hackett, the American silver medallist from the Montreal Olympics.

One has to look back to the European championships in September to understand fully why this 21-year-old student of physical education from Leningrad bothered to drive himself so unflinchingly, when victory was never in doubt (he lapped or double-lapped everyone except Sven Lodziewski, of East Germany, who finished 35 metres behind in second place).

Salnikov, an Olympic double champion, was surprisingly deprived of the gold medal in the 400m event in Yugoslavia by Borut Petric, and the memory obviously still rankles more than the Russian's always impeccable sportsmanship allowed him to show at the time.

"I expected my records this weekend because I had set myself these targets in training", he said in excellent English yesterday. "Now I look for Petric in Amersfoort and Paris". Considering Salnikov's present mood and physical condition, these two meetings with his Yugoslav rival early in the new year now look certain to provide a confrontation of classic proportions.

The Barnet Copthall meeting was dominated, predictably enough, by the full-strength Russian men's team, who won 10 of their 14 events, and by the East German women, who scored 11 victories, in spite of fielding a team which contained not one of their many European and Olympic champions.

The British men's team finished in fifth place and were in disappointing form, apart from Adrian Moorhouse, the 17-year-old breaststroker from Leeds. He recorded Britain's only win of the competition in the 100m breaststroke on Saturday, defeating the European champion, Yuri Kis, in the process.

Yesterday, however, Moorhouse found the Olympic champion, Robertas Zhulpa, much too good for him over 200m, though he still gained an honourable second place in 2 min 19.82 sec, which was close to his personal best.

The British women performed well to tie for second place with The Netherlands. On Saturday, June Croft (Wigan Wasps) and Jackie Willmott (Southend) improved the British freestyle records for 200m (1 min 59.90 sec) and 800m (8 min 35.02 sec) respectively, though both had to be content with second places.

MEN: 100m butterfly: 1, M Gross (WG), 55.65sec; 2, A Markovsky (USSR), 55.80; 3, C Lindell (Sweden), 56.17. 200m freestyle: 1, A Krasiuk (USSR), 1min 50.88sec; 2, K Bindan (BG), 1:52.36; 3, I Golomeev (Bulgaria), 1:52.56. 1500m freestyle: 1, V Salnikov (USSR), 14:44.09 (World best); 2, S Lodziewski (EG), 15:3.62; 3, D Machek (Czechoslovakia), 15:29.35. British placing: 5, P Easter, 15:35.96. 200m breaststroke: 1, Z Skaliga (USSR), 2:15.22; 2, A Moorhouse (GB), 2:19.82; 3, R Buitgerst (EG), 2:20.43. 400m individual medley: 1, S Fesenko (USSR), 4:23.08; 2, A Reichel (EG), 4:26.14; 3, J Hladky (Czechoslovakia), 4:27.90; 4, S Poulter (GB), 4:29.68. 4 x 100m freestyle relay: 1, Soviet Union, 3:21.47; 2, Sweden 3:24.07; 3, East Germany, 3:24.19; 5, Britain, 3:31.50. Leading final placings: 1, Soviet Union, 262pts; 2, East Germany, 236; 3, West Germany, 177; 4, Sweden, 173; 5, Britain, 168.

WOMEN: 100m freestyle: 1, B Meineke (EG), 55.88; 2, A Verstappen (Netherlands), 56.84; 3, J Croft (GB), 56.63. 400m freestyle: 1, A Tomashevski (EG), 4:9.71; 2, A Maat (Netherlands), 4:9.87; 3, J Beyermann (WG), 4:14.91; 4, J Willmott (GB), 4:16.50. 200m butterfly: 1, H Dahne (EG), 2:12.73; 2, A Osgerby (GB) 2:14.58; 3, N Hasse (WG), 2:16.74. 200m backstroke: 1, H Gorchakova (USSR), 2:13.82; 2, U Sirch (EG) 2:16.16; 3, J de Rover (Netherlands), 2:16.74; 4, J Admans (GB), 2:20.73. 200m individual medley: 1, B Meineke (EG), 2:15.99; 2, A Fallqvasova (Sweden), 2:20.50; 3, A Verslappen (Netherlands), 2:20.69. British placing: 7, M Scott, 2:22.51. 4 x 100m medley relay: 1, East Germany, 4:9.75; 2, Soviet Union, 4:14.32; 3, Britain, 4:16.62. Leading final placings: 1, East Germany, 363 pts; 2, Britain, 212; 3, Netherlands, 212; 4, Soviet Union.

Saturday results

MEN: 100 metres freestyle: 1, J Woithe (E Ger), 49.38 secs. 100 metres breaststroke: 1, A Sidorenko (GB), 1 min 4.13 secs. 200 metres individual medley: 1, A Sidorenko (USSR), 2 mins 2.36 secs; 5, P Easter (GB), 2:9.[illegible]. 200 metres backstroke: 1, F Baltrusch (EG) 2 mins 0.88 secs. 200 metres butterfly: 1, S Fesenko (USSR), 1 min 59.96 secs; 7, S Poulter (GB), 2:6.85. 200 metres medley relay: 1, USSR, 3 mins 45.45 secs; 6, GB, 3:54.20. 400 metres freestyle: 1, V Salnikov (USSR), 3 mins 46.16 secs (world best); 6, J Davey (GB), 3:59.07.

WOMEN: 100 metres butterfly: 1, A Alrakinen (Sweden), 1 min 1.61 secs; 4, A Osgerby (GB), 1:3.93. 100 metres backstroke: 1, K Otto (EG), 1 min 3.19 secs; 5, H Jameson (GB), 1:5.89. 200 metres freestyle: 1, B Meineke (EG), 1 min 59.06 secs; 2, J Croft (GB), 1:59.90. 200 metres breaststroke: 1, A Bazelite (USSR), 2 min 33.34 secs; 4, S Brownsdon (GB), 2:35.22. 400 metres individual medley: 1, G Slabe (EG) 4 min 24 secs; 5, M Scott (GB), 4:51.77. 400 metres freestyle relay: 1, EG, 3 min 46.34 secs; 4, GB, 3:51.41. 800 metres freestyle: 1, H Dahne (EG), 8 min 30.81 secs; 2, J Willmott (GB), 8:35.02.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 20

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End of a dream for a 'beaten-up old man'

From Ross Waby
Nassau, Dec 13

Muhammad Ali has finally put aside his fanciful ambition of boxing once more for the world heavyweight championship. A beating administered over ten rounds by a compassionate opponent, the Canadian champion Trevor Berbick, awakened Ali from his dream of winning the title for a fourth time.

He had convinced himself that he could again be champion in spite of his age, his girth and clear evidence that he was no longer a boxer of much merit. Berbick, in the ring, brought Ali to his senses as nobody else had been able to outside it.

The final bell ending Ali's career tolled under a full Caribbean moon that shone over the open air arena in Nassau's Queen Elizabeth sports centre. He took his last exit before ten thousand Bahamans including the Prime Minister, Lynden Pindling who cheered him warmly for what he once was and not for the weary "beaten-up old man" that he had become in his own words.

Exhausted and pained in the aftermath, Ali who has never seriously pursued any other profession, declared that his ten rounds loss was really the finale. "If after 21 years of training, this was the best I could do, then I think its time I quit", he said. "Father time, you can't beat him. I feel old". It was an admission that he realizes he can no longer do the necessary training, that he is slower and that his skills have diminished beyond the point where it is safe for him against strong, young men.

Survival, not victory, had become Ali's goal and he was perhaps fortunate that the native of Jamaica was his opponent. "I didn't have the killer instinct. It just wasn't there and my form was not very good either", Berbick said.

Berbick, 28, smiled as he admitted Ali hurt him a couple of times. "He's still strong and he's sneaky, you know. He got my sympathy by coming out of the corner all weary and glassy eyed. Then he'd really swing rights at my chin very hard."

Two of the three judges gave one round to Ali, the fifth, which may have been justified in that it was the only round in which Ali's timing was good and in which Berbick coasted. But Ali caused Berbick no concern in that round or in any other. "At least I didn't go down", said Ali. "No pictures of me on the floor, no pictures of me falling through the ropes. No broken teeth, no blood".

Hearns wins.—In the main supporting bout Tommy Hearns, in his first bout since losing his world welterweight title to Sugar Ray Leonard in September, beat his fellow-American Ernie Singletary over ten bloody rounds. Hearns earned the verdict unanimously but the unheralded 29-year-old Singletary made one of the most valiant efforts of his career against the former WBA champion. Singletary hammered away at a cut above Hearns's left eye in the sixth round but the experienced Hearns back-pedalled out of trouble.—Reuter reports.

Praise from Sanchez for beaten Cowdell

Houston (Texas), Dec 13.—Salvador Sanchez, the World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight champion, overcame his British challenger, Pat Cowdell, to retain his title by winning a 15-round split points decision here last night.

The hard-punching Sanchez, making his seventh successful defence opened cuts about both Cowdell's eyes and put him down in the waning seconds of the fight, but won only a majority decision.

The first three rounds of the bout produced little action, with Cowdell showing respect for the punching power of the Mexican, who had finished 31 of his 43 previous opponents inside the distance.

Then the challenger began taking the fight to the champion. Relying on a snapping left jab he scored repeatedly against Sanchez, who seemed to have trouble with Cowdell's awkward, jerky style.

In the eighth round, Sanchez opened a cut under Cowdell's left eye which began to swell and produced a trickle of blood. Sanchez then began to get on top.

A looping left hook in the ninth opened another cut, over Cowdell's right eye, and the challenger bled profusely through the rest of the match. But he continued to fight aggressively and in the 15th round Sanchez, realising that it was much closer than he had expected, went after the knock-out.

With only 15 seconds to go, the Mexican set Cowdell up with a left jab, then followed up with a short, chopping overhand right that dropped the challenger flat on his back. Cowdell lay motionless for five seconds, but pulled himself off the floor as the count reached eight to survive.

Two of three American judges gave the bout to Sanchez, one to Cowdell.

"He showed great courage," Sanchez said of the challenger. "He was a tough fellow. He was valiant. He was in good condition. He surprised me with his physical condition."

Cowdell, who had to receive stitches to repair the cuts around his eyes, was pleased with his performance and anxious for another shot at the crown. "I think I proved I'm a worthy opponent," he said. "Hopefully, I'll get another chance."—Reuter.

LUTON Amateur International: England, v Scotland (English name first): Light-fly: Danny Purtice beat Kenny Grant, second round; Flyweight: John Hyland beat Pat Clinton, pts; Bantamweight: Bobby Jones beat Danny Flynn, pts; Lightweight: Renard Ashton beat Peter Bradley, pts; Michael Hull beat David Savage, pts; Light-welterweight: Jeff Decker lost to Alistair Laurie, second round; Welterweight: Robert McGinley beat Jim Mcklintosh, pts; Light Middleweight: Errol Christie beat Mark Mallory, pts; Light middleweight: Bernard Ruddwick beat Jim Hepburn, pts; Middleweight: Brian Schumacher beat Alex McCullough, third round; Light heavyweight: Tony Wilson beat Russell Barker pts, Match result: England 10 Scotland 1.

OTHER RESULTS (All LIS): Heavyweight: Earnie Shavers beat Jeff Sims, fifth round; Greg Page beat Scott Ledoux, fourth round. Light heavyweight: Eddie Mustafa Muhammad beat Mike Hardin, eighth round.

Locked together at the last bend: Decoy Boom (left) outstays Royston's Annie in an open race at Hackney

Rugby League

Cardiff economy measures put Mantle on the shelf

By a Special Correspondent

Cardiff City, the Rugby League newcomers, have parted company with their coach, John Mantle, as an economy measure. Despite being among the front runners in the second division, Cardiff are concerned about dwindling attendances.

Mantle, aged 38, a former Welsh Rugby Union and Rugby League international, said: "It isn't a great shock because I know the financial position is not too healthy. I am not bitter and still want to help Cardiff if possible. I have been asked to continue as a player and am considering the offer.

"The last two attendances of 1,500 and 1,600 are well below the break-even figure of 4,000. Cardiff have told me they need to spend more money on new players and make cuts in other directions and that has prompted my dismissal. However, I do not think Cardiff's future is in any immediate danger."

The manager, David Watkins, another former Union and League international, said: "It is likely I will take overall control of team matters".

☐ The people of Humberside, particularly of those territories on the east and west banks of the lesser river Hull, are once again sharpening their rivalries in preparation for another mighty confrontation in a major final, (Keith Macklin writes). It will be the fourth in three seasons when Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers meet in the final of the John Player Trophy next month.

On Saturday, Hull KR, as everyone expected, brushed aside the gallant but unavailing challenge of the second division club, Swinton, at Headingley to join their neighbours in the final. Although Swinton scored two good second-half tries through Clough and O'Loughlin, plus four goals from Paul Mellor, Rovers never looked like losing once a try by Holdstock had put them in front. Fairbairn (two), Smith and Muscroft scored the other tries for Rovers and Fairbairn, who ran 75 yards for his second try, kicked four goals.

Two matches defied the snow yesterday, although both ended in blizzards. Leeds beat off a determined challenge by Whitehaven, who played some excellent rugby in the second half, to win 23—13. Dyl and Holmes had outstanding games for Leeds and Rayne, who cost £41,500 from Wakefield Trinity, had a useful game in the pack. Leigh gave Widnes their second successive defeat, winning 18—5 at a ground which had been swept clear of snow by supporters.

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY: Semi-final: Swinton 14, Hull KR 23 (at Leeds).

All other matches postponed:

Yesterday

FIRST DIVISION: Leeds 23, Whitehaven 13; Leigh 18, Widnes 5.

Rugby Union

TOUR: Glasgow 0, Australia 51 (at Murrayfield)

CLUB MATCHES: Camborne 26, Truro 17; Cardiff 6, Ldn Welsh 6 (abandoned).

All other matches cancelled

SCOTTISH INTER DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Edinburgh 12, South of Scotland 10.

Racing

Dickinson keeps winner machine ticking over

By Michael Seely

As the blizzards sweep the country, racing folk seem beset with different kinds of problems. Guy Harwood, who this afternoon will be receiving the Derby Award for the Flat trainer of the year, telephoned yesterday to see what the weather was like in the Midlands as he is setting off hot-foot from the luncheon to shoot in Yorkshire tomorrow.

Peter Easterby, who is resigned to missing his best day's shooting for the third successive year as he is travelling down to London to be nominated as the top National Hunt trainer for the third consecutive time, is worried about whether he will be able to get a race into Little Owl before the King George VI Steeplechase on Boxing Day. "We've got no snow. The ground is frozen solid. And even the all-weather gallop is unusable."

Yesterday William Hill opened a book on Kempton's Boxing Day feature. They made Silver Buck their favourite at 5—2. They then go 3—1 Little Owl, 9—2 Royal Bond, 6—1 Night Nurse. It looks as though both Silver Buck and Little Owl will have to run without a preliminary race.

The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner has a choice of engagements at Market Rasen and Catterick Bridge on Wednesday. Prospects of either meeting taking place are remote. Silver Buck is also in at Catterick, and both horses are also entered at the weekend, but these races might come a little too close to Kempton. It would, however, come as no surprise to see Night Nurse in action at Doncaster.

Michael Dickinson has experienced no difficulty in keeping his horses on the move. "We've been very lucky so far. By rotavating our all-weather gallop, we haven't missed a day's work yet". If the weather relents, Dickinson hopes to run Wayward Lad in the SGB Handicap Steeplechase at Ascot on Saturday and Political Pop at Doncaster, 5—2 against Silver Buck winning his third consecutive King George VI seems a fairly short price. However, not only has the horse recently proved his well-being by beating Sunset Cristo and Night Nurse at Haydock Park, but his trainer is also satisfied with the horse's fitness.

The weather has caused the abandonment of all the meetings scheduled for today and tomorrow. It will be a tragedy for all concerned if the weekend's programmes also have to be abandoned. The racecourses face heavy losses and owners and trainers will lose chances of winning valuable prize money. Also the public will be deprived of the chance of watching some magnificent sport.

Apart from the big steeplechase at Ascot, Heighlin, Ekbalco, Broadsword are all set to renew their recent Newbury rivalry in the SGB Hire Shop Hurdle. And the remaining four races on the Ascot card carry an aggregate of £20,000 in added money. Doncaster features the £10,000 Freebooter Novices' Steeplechase, which has been the long-term objective of Bob Hartop's unbeaten young chaser, Golden Vow.

Yachting

Four vessels left to finish second leg

From Barry Pickthall
Auckland, Dec 13

The 51-foot Traité de Rome, sailed by 29-year-old Antonio Chiozzotto and a crew representing all 10 nations from within the EEC, today became the nineteenth yacht to complete the 7,000-mile second leg of the round-the world race.

Crossing the Auckland finishing line at 6.46 p.m. local time in remarkably good order, this former German Admiral's Cup yacht had a corrected time of 759hr 19min 18sec

This leaves four yachts to complete the course. The Belgian sloop, Croky, the German 52-foot Walross Berlin, and the British 43-foot vessel, Bubblegum, are all expected to arrive tomorrow. Licor 43, from Spain, dismasted in the southern ocean, set sail from Hobart today and is due to finish on December 23.

Sailboarding

ST. PETERSBOURG, Florida: world open championships: Leading positions. Lightweights: 1, S [illegible] den Berg (Netherlands) 9 points; Heavyweights: 1, J Wenggaard (Norway) 17; Women: 1, M Berner (Norway) 16.7.

MAASTRICHT, Six-day race: 1, U Hempel and J Kristen (WG) 129 pts; 2, J Raas and G Kastemann (Netherlands), 116; 3, A Pritz and G Strumacher (WG), 99; 6, M Gordon (GB) and G Wiggins (Australia) 75, 5 laps behind.

هكذا من الأصل

Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

Christmas gloom for City Lettings

A Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks survey shows there has been a sharp rise in vacant office space during November, taking the total to 1.7m sq ft

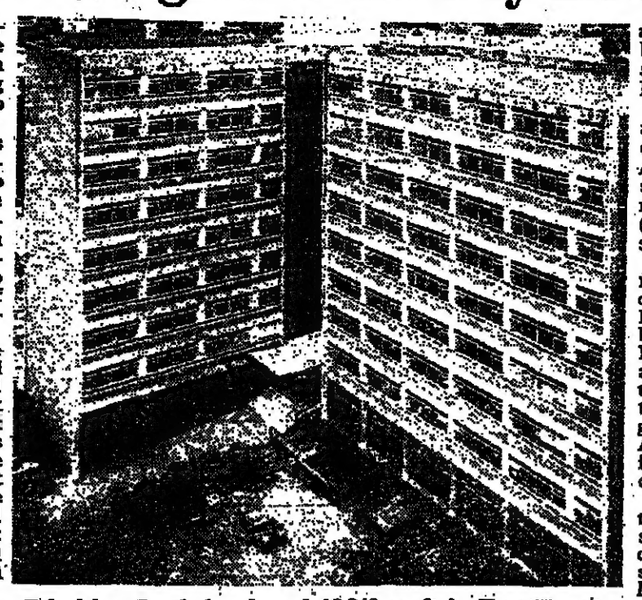
Traditionally December is a poor month for City lettings and so far the run up to Christmas indicates a worse than normal situation. During November, more than 500,000 sq ft of office accommodation found its way on to the market, an increase of 344,000 sq ft over the previous month.

Increased empty office space occurred in the EC and WC postal districts covered by the survey. The largest single block of 145,000 sq ft came on to the market. This is the largest of the 11 office units in excess of 50,000 sq ft on the open market in the survey area. WC2 registered the greatest surge in vacant space, rising from 250,000 sq ft in — October to 441,000 sq ft last month.

Against this gloomy picture of rising empty space, the amount of accommodation actually let in November remained on a level of the previous month, the agents say, at around 300,000 sq ft. The largest single letting last month was 27,000 sq ft in the EC1 district.

But DT & C note that the impact of vacant space was lessened in November by the unusually high number of buildings withdrawn from the market. Overall empty office accommodation within the City area increased by only 189,000 sq ft.

The only district to show any activity was EC1 where about 78,000 sq ft of space was let, sold or went under offer. This was a substantial increase on the previous month's activity when a meagre 17,000 sq ft found a new tenant or owner. At the other end of the scale, lettings fell dramatically in EC4 from 124,000 sq ft in October to only 51,000 sq ft last month.



Television South has leased 16,340 sq ft in Kent House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, from Kent County Council. The letting follows the move by TVS to construct new television studios in Maidstone. Joint agents Walter and Forknall and Richard Ellis state that only 24,510 sq ft are vacant in the building.

It is uncertain how much of this steady rise in vacant office accommodation is directly attributable to a sluggish economy but clearly, many prospective tenants are deferring any decision-making until the picture is clearer. Observers in the investment field indicate that institutions, in particular, are becoming increasingly chary of committing large amounts of funds for future development. It seems likely that the mainstream property market is likely to remain in the doldrums until spring.

While the City and the United Kingdom property market may be heading for a quieter period than it has known for some years, the Dutch market is showing clear signs of a major recession, according to the latest report by Savills. Over the past six months, the Dutch property scene has been characterized by a depressed level of activity and with falling values both in capital and rental terms, state the agents.

The market has been overshadowed by the Netherland's political and economic problems. High interest rates and and a weak economy have pushed more companies into bankruptcy.

Against this background, agents note that there has been little evidence of any shortage of office space in Holland.

Demand has been muted and rents have been declining over the last six months. In Amsterdam, prime rents have slipped from Dfl350 a sq metre to Dfl325 a sq metre (about £7.10 a sq ft to £6.60 a sq ft).

Slippage has been less noticeable in other major cities like The Hague and Rotterdam where the fall has been in the order of only Dfl10 to Dfl20 a sq metre. As a consequence, Savills report that there is great opportunity for office rental growth in those cities than in Amsterdam where there is far more buildings under construction.

Holland's poor economy is taking its toll of the retailing sector. Savills say that the country's main shopping streets continue to show a high degree of volatility.

In Amsterdam, the prime pedestrianized Kalverstraat has between 10-15 per cent of its total shops either available on the market or potentially available if approached.

Rents are presently in the Dfl1,100-Dfl1,200 a sq metre range (£22.50-£24.60 a sq ft) and Savills are forecasting that these could well fall to Dfl1,000 Dfl1,100 a sq metre before next spring.

Other shopping streets in Amsterdam are showing the same trend and the fall is not only restricted to that city. In Rotterdam, the main shopping pitch has already been trimmed to Dfl1,000 a sq metre.

A similar picture is emerging in Holland's industrial property scene where rents in the Randstad, prime industrial area, has fallen from Dfl80-90 a sq metre to Dfl75-90 a sq metre (£1.64-£1.84 to £1.53-£1.84 a sq ft) during the past six months.

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BEHOLD, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.—Isaiah 40 : 10.

BIRTHS

CLEAVER.—On December 10th in Dallas, Texas to Linda and William—a son (Jason William), a brother for Donnie and Richard.

HEAL.—On December 10th, in Johannesburg, to Caily (née Strong) and Nick—a daughter, sister for Louise.

REAY.—On December 11th in Tiel, Holland, to Victoria, wife of Lord Reay—a daughter.

SCARF.—On December 1st, to Janet and Nicholas—a daughter (Meredith Laura Frances).

SEXTON.—On 20th November, at Hertford County Hospital, to Susan and Glenn—a daughter (Philippa Margaret), a sister for James.

DEATHS

DEMPSEY MICHAEL.—Tragically on December 7th, 1981, aged 57, beloved son of Patrick and May, brother of Rita and father of Rose. Service at St. Mary's Priory (Our Lady of Doloursl, 254 Fulham Rd., London, S.W.6, Friday, December 18th, at 10 a.m. Any flowers please may be sent to E. B. Ashton, 96 Fulham Rd., S.W.3, the previous day.

KAY.—On 8th December, Maisie, in her 89th year, daughter of Edward and Emmie Kay. Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Sydney St, on Tuesday, 15th December, at 2.30 p.m., followed by cremation. No flowers by her request but donations may be made to the Distressed Gentlefolks, Vicarage Gate, W8.

LAMPLUGH.—On December 11th, suddenly but peacefully at his home, Eric Crosby, aged 79 years, of Blacksmith Cottage, Alderman's Towkesbury Glos. Much loved husband of Madge, dearly loved father of Paul and Eleanor. Funeral service at Alderton Church, 16th December at 1.50 p.m. Family flowers only please. Further enquiries to B. Sweet and Son, Tewkesbury 293180.

MANSBRIDGE.—On December 5, John, dear father of Lucas Buckley and grandfather of Paul and Ian. Service tomorrow, December 15, at Lewisham Crematorium at 1 p.m. Donations please, in lieu of flowers, to Six Counties Kidney Patients Association, Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Memorial service later at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, E.C.2.

PEARCEY.—On December 4, 1981, peacefully at home, Lawrence Henry Victor, aged 86, dear husband of Gladys, father of Oliver, Julian and Stella and grandfather of Olivia.

PENTRESS.—On December 11, 1981, in hospital, Herbert Leslie Pentress, AFC, aged 61 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and father of Lesley and Jonathan and a much loved grandad. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Banstead, at 2.30 pm. on Thursday, December 17. Cremation private. All flowers and enquiries to Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill (Tel. 63456).

SEAL.—On December 9th, 1981, suddenly at the Royal Tennis Court, Hampton Court Palace, Esmond Francis Seymour, dear husband of Barbara and much loved step-father, brother, uncle and great uncle. At his request no mourning but a remembrance gathering next year at Torrington House.

SINFIELD.—On December 10th, at home, George Walter, of St. Albans, and previously of Wimbledon. Funeral and cremation at West Herts Crematorium, High Elms Lane, Garston, Watford, Herts., on Wednesday, December 16th, at 11 a.m.

STRUTT, CHARLES RICHARD — On December 11, 1981, aged 71, at Berwick Place, Rettfield Pevereil, Essex, son of the late 4th Lord Rayleigh, beloved husband of Jean and devoted father of Anne, Mary and John. Funeral on Thursday, December 17, at All Saints, Terling, at 2.30 pm. The 13.05 from Liverpool Street will be met at Hatfield Pevereil. No flowers. Donations if desired to the Church Army, Independent Road, Blackheath SE3 9LJ.

WATERWORTH.—On December 10, 1981, peacefully at her home in Blackpool, Lancashire, Agnes May, aged 89, dearly loved mother of Jenny, grandmother of Alicia and Adrian and great grandmother of Robert, Paul, Sophie and Olivia. Funeral service at Burnley Cemetery, on Wednesday, December 16, at 1.45 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

LEYLAND.—A memorial service for Norman Leyland will be held in the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, on Saturday, 16th January, 1982, at 2.15 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDREWS, CHRISTOPHER.—Died December 13th, 1972. In loving memory from his wife Valerie and his children, Robert and Susan.

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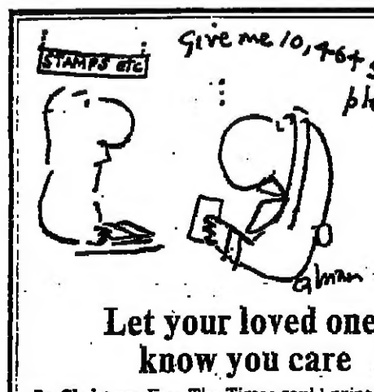

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report and news headlines with sub-titles). 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One.** Among the guests is Frederick Fox, one of the royal milliners. He will be giving advice on the sort of hats to wear with different outfits. 1.45 **Chock-a-Block** with Fred Harris (r). 2.00 **When the Bough Breaks.** The fourth of eight programmes presented by John Thaw for parents who think they mistreat their children (r). 2.12 Closedown. 3.00 **See Hear!** A magazine programme for the hearing-impaired. This week — Christmas books (shown yesterday). 3.25 **Della Smith's Cookery Course.** The last in the series and we learn about puddings (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoon: Mighty Mouse in The Wreck of the Hesperus (r).
4.25 Jackanory. Willie Rushton reads A. A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh (r).
4.35 Jigsaw. The last in the series of puzzle programmes.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround. World news for young people.
5.05 Blue Peter. The latest news on their annual Appeal.
5.35 The Amazing Adventures of Morph introduced by Tony Hart (r).
5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 **Nationwide.**
6.55 Angels. Drama serial set in a Midlands hospital.
7.20 Blake's Seven. Science fiction adventures. This week one of the planetry leaders fails to turn up at a conference.
8.10 Panorama. Peter Taylor reports on the new crisis in Poland and includes exclusive film shot only a few hours before Saturday night's clampdown.
9.00 News from John Humphrys.
9.25 Film: St Ives (1976) starring Charles Bronson, Jacqueline Bisset and Maximilian Schell. Bronson plays an ex-crime reporter, Raymond St Ives, down on his luck. To earn some much needed money he is commissioned to collect five private ledgers in exchange for a huge ransom.
10.55 Film 81 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed tonight are Prince of the City and Heavy Metal.
11.25 Speak for Yourself. Advice on entertaining guests with a different culture. 11.50 **News** headlines and weather.

BBC1 VARIATIONS: CYMRU/WALES 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales. 1.45-2.00 Pili Pala. 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 6.55-7.20 Heddiw. 9.25-10.15 Gwen Tomos. 10.15-10.55 Barbara Mandrell. 11.50-11.54 News headlines. 11.54-12.14am The sky at night. 12.14 News and weather. SCOTLAND 12.56pm-1.0 The Scottish News. 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland. 11.25-11.55 Ahlaidh. 11.25-11.55 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.57-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Scene around six. 11.50 News headlines and weather. ENGLAND 6.00pm 6.25 Regional news magazines. 11.56 Close.

BBC 2

10.35 Speak for Yourself. Hints on how to socialise with friends of a different culture **11.00 Play School.** For the under fives presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Fred Harris. The story of Helen Palmer's Geoffrey Loses His Voice **11.25 Write Away.** Advice on everyday writing presented by Barry Took (r) 11.40 Closedown **2.20 Let's Go.** The last in the series of programmes designed to help the mentally handicapped get more from life. Presented by Brian Rix (r) **2.35 Inside Japan.** The last in a series about the Japanese way of life (r) 3.05 Closedown **3.30 Multi-Cultured Swap Shop.** (r)
3.55 Film: The Little Minister* (1934) starring Katherine Hepburn and John Bale. An adaptation of J. M. Barrie's play about a mysterious gypsy girl who arrives in a small Scottish village to warn them about the evil local laird's intention to send in soldiers to curb their rebellious spirit.
5.40 Daredevils of the Red Circle* The beastly master criminal designs a deadly ray gun in order to kill the district attorney.
6.00 Schools Prom. Introduced by Anthony Hopkins from The Royal Albert Hall.
6.55 News with sub titles.
7.00 Living in the Past. Experiments in Iron Age living.
7.30 Tales of Twelve Cities. From Portsmouth — The Commander's Tale.
8.10 Cliff! The last in the series examining the phenomenal career of Cliff Richard.
9.00 The Great Art Dictator. The story of Hitler's dream to create an art collection glorifying the Third Reich. Presented by historian Norman Stone.
9.55 The Various Ends of Mrs F's Friends. A morality musical about the "progress of an ogress" Written by John Fletcher and Guy Wolfenden it stars Jan Waters as the notorious Mrs F.
10.55 Newsnight. The latest world and domestic news including an in depth analysis of one of the stories that made this morning's headlines. Ends at 11.45.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Film: A Night to Remember* (1958) starring Kenneth More. The story of the events that led to the sinking of the unsinkable Titanic. **11.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist.** Daniel Murray stars as Oliver in another escapade that starts where Dickens's novel ends (r). **12.00 Cockleshell Bay.** Adventures of the Cockle twins for the very young. **12.10 Rainbow.** Learning with puppets. **12.30 Doctor!** Dr Joe Jordan and his guests discuss Parkinson's Disease. **1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Farmhouse Kitchen.** Hot and Cold Puddings. **2.00 Money-go-Round.** News of compensation for a patient who suffered drug injury. **2.30 Film: Christopher Columbus** (1949) starring Frederic March. British-made effort about the famous man's struggle to prove the Earth was round.
3.55 Cartoon: Dangermouse in The Plague of Pyramids.
4.30 Frank and Polly Muir's Big Dipper. A pot-pourri of works by leading children's writers and illustrators.
5.15 Diff'rent Strokes.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.
6.25 Help! Introduced by Viv Taylor Gee. She talks to Vic Finkelstein and Francine White, two of the British delegates at the first Disabled International Conference which was held earlier this month in Singapore. It was called to bring together the disabled in order that they could coordinate strategy in their fight for equal rights.
6.35 Crossroads. Iris meets her mother for the first time in 13 years.
7.00 Bullseye. Quiz and darts competition hosted by Jim Bowen.
7.30 Coronation Street. Stan and Hilda become gazumpers.
8.00 World in Action Special. The protest music of the young unemployed. An hour long film of the free concert given by two Midlands groups — The Beat and UB 40 — and interviews with some of the out-of-work youngsters who were present.
9.00 Film: A Star is Born (1976) starring Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson. The story of a rock singer on the skids and his love affair with a young singer on the way up. A chance meeting between the two leads John Norman Howard (Kristofferson) into arranging recording sessions for his night-club protege. The association helps him but he still cannot face performing in public. A brooding performance from Kristofferson and a trilling one from Streisand.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: A Star is Born continued.
12.05 Three's Company. Comic American capers about flat sharers. Jack is found in bed with his landlord. How can he convince the girls that it was innocent and that he is not gay? Starring John Ritter and Suzanne Somers.
12.30 Close with Claire Rayner reading a poem about love.

Polly Muir: ITV 4.30 pm

CHOICE

● **THE GREAT ART DICTATOR** (BBC 2, 9.00 pm) takes a seldom discussed look at another facet of Adolf Hitler's megalomania — his lifelong fascination with Art. The programme begins with his rejection as a student by the Vienna Fine Arts Academy — would his acceptance have prevented World War Two? — which left him with an unnatural dislike of all things Viennese and modern painting which he believed was financed by Jewish money. When he came to power in 1933 he persecuted the modern school painters and promoted the sterile, representational style artists. His dream was to turn his home town of Linz into a Rome of the Third Reich with a neo classical Adolf Hitler Museum as its centrepiece. To fill this vast building he systematically looted the collections of the countries he conquered. After the hostilities the majority of his hoard was found in the vast salt mine of Alt Aassee. With the help of archive film, eye witness accounts from both Germans and Allies, Norman Stone, a Fellow of Trinity, Cambridge, and an expert on German history, brings us a fascinating insight into this little-known dream of the dictator.

● **TALES OF TWELVE CITIES** (BBC 2 7.30pm) reaches the penultimate programme with The Commander's Tale from Portsmouth. The Commander in question is Alastair Wilson of HMS Nelson and the setting is the historic and prestigious Trafalgar Dinner over which he presides and at which the guest of honour is Admiral Lord Hill-Norton. The Commander's Tale recounts how the City as well as the Royal Navy is adapting to the run-down of the dockyard with the loss of some 6,000 jobs by talking to three of the guests whose association with the City has had or will have a bearing on the present situation. Rear Admiral Tony Tippet has the job of running down the dockyard; Councillor George Byng dreams of a new Continental Ferry Port; and 80-year-old Aileen Wyllie tells of life as it was in Old Portsmouth.

● The Monday Play **IN AND OUT OF THE UNION JACKS** (Radio 4, 8.00 pm) by Ginnie Hole deals with the parameters of liberal tolerance. Ray is a professional photographer and believes he is modern thinking and broad minded. He has extra-marital affairs — condoned by his wife who has her own sexual flings — and doesn't mind his daughter doing the same. The crisis of conscience comes when Mel, the daughter, becomes embroiled with a thug belonging to the National Front. What do they do? Mother is a staunch member of the Anti-Nazi League and father also believes in its aims. Therein lies their dilemma. Michael Spice is Ray, the father, Petra Davis is Anna, his wife, and Kathryn Hurlbutt the daughter that causes them to reassess their social mores

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Week.
6.30 Today.
8.35 The Week on 4.
8.45 Glyn Worsnip with EEC Sound Archives.
9.00 News.
9.05 Start the Week.
10.00 News.
10.02 Money Box.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story "Growing Up" by Edward Gaitens.
11.00 News.
11.05 Down your Way visits the Mendip Hill, Somerset.
11.50 Poetry Please!†
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 How to Survive the Office Party. Headthumping humour with Willie Rushton and guests.
12.55 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Women's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play "A Man of too Much Honour" by Elizabeth Holford.†
4.35 Piano Parlour Patricia Carroll plays Victorian piano music.†
4.45 Story Time: "Tell Sally" by Magda Szabo.
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News and Financial Report.
6.30 The News Quiz.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Start the Week.
8.00 Play: "In and Out the Union Jacks" by Ginnie Hole.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Science Now.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime "The Orchid Trilogy" by Jocelyn Brooke (5).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News and Weather.
VHF: 6.25 Weather. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 1.55 Programme News. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert Telemann, Dubois, arr. Willcocks, Dussek, Mozart; records.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Rossini, Mendelssohn, Lyadov; records.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967) records.†
10.00 Royal Northern College of Music Sinfonia Concert Haydn, Copland, Mozart.†
11.00 17th-Century Harpsichord Music Recital: Juan Bautista, Cabanilles, Johann Jacob Froberger, Jean-Henri d'Anglebert.†
11.55 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra Concert: Suk, Schwertsik, Martinu, Smetana.†
1.00 News.
1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert direct from St. John's, Smith Square, London: String Quartet recital: Mozart, Britten.†
2.15 Matinee Musicale Concert: Reznicek, Gordon Jacob, Miklos Rozsa, David Lyon, Holst, Respighi.†
3.15 New Records Haydn, Brahms, Dvorak, Liszt.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure with Donald James.†
7.00 Images of Heaven and Hell
7.30 Idomeneo, Re di Creta Opera in three acts by Mozart.
8.25 Interval reading.
8.30 Idomeneo, Act 2.
9.15 Interval reading.
9.20 Idomeneo, Act 3.
10.35 Jazz in Britain: Charles Fox introduces the David Cole Quartet.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Oboe and Guitar Music by Napoleon Coste; record.†

Medium Frequency/Medium Wave as VHF above except: 6.40 Cricket Second Test.

Radio 2

5.03 Steve Jones.† 7.30 Ray Moore.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 John Dunn.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 David Symonds.† 8.00 Folk On 2.† 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton.† 10.00 The Law Game (series). 10.30 Star Sound. 11.00 Brain Matthew. † from midnight. 1.00 Truckers' Hour.† 2.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Barry Took, the questionmaster and Polly Toynbee, one of the panel, in The News Quiz (Radio 4 6.30 pm)

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Reid. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Stayin' Alive. 8.00 David Jensen 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Close. VHF Radios 1 and 2: 5.00 With Radio 2. 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00 With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT) 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. News Summary 7.30 Country Style. 7.45 Short Story 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Barbershop Style 8.30 Baker's Half Dozen 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 Notes from an Observer 9.20 Good Books 9.33 Interlude. 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 Three Centuries of Italian Opera 10.15 I Wish I'd Met . 10.30 Frank Muir Goes Into . 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Guitar Workshop 11.30 Pageant of the Past 12.00 Radio Newsreel 12.15 Take it or Leave it 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. News Summary 1.30 Country Style 1.45 Football Club 2.15 Leave it to Psmith. 2.30 Rock Salad 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Outlook 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 The Red and the Black 4.45 The World Today 5.00 World News. 5.09 Europe. 5.25 New Ideas 6.00 World News 6.09 Twenty-Four Hours. News Summary. 9.15 Europe 9.30 Rock Salad 10.00 World News 10.09 The World Today 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial News 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Classical Record Review 11.30 Take it or Leave it. 12.00World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Radio Theatre 1.15 Outlook 1.45 Europe 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 Sport International 3.00 World News 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA

As Thames except: 9.30 am Sinbad. 10.15 Untamed World. 10.35 Flying Kiwi. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.30-4.15 Film: Sleeping Car to Trieste (Jean Kent). Conspirators in the theft of a vital diary double-cross each other aboard the Orient Express. 5.15-5.45 Muppet Show. 6.00-7.00 Granada Reports. 12.10 am Going Out. 12.40 Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Wood. 9.25 News. 9.30 George Hamilton IV. 9.55 World We Live In. 10.20 Cartoon. 10.35 Stingray. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm-1.30 News, Lookaround. 2.30-4.15 Film: Sixty Glorious Years (Anna Neagle). Sequel to "Victoria the Great". 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 News. 6.02 Three Little Words. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 12.05 am Good Tomorrow? 12.10 Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: Starts 9.35 Sesame Street. 10.35-12.00 Film: Sands of the Desert (Charlie Drake). Clerk in a travel agency finds himself involved in eastern intrigues. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Our Miss Fred (Danny La Rue). Second World War comedy in which an actor escapes in women's clothes when his troupe is captured. 3.45-4.15 Money-go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.15 Sound of Children. 6.45-7.00 Travellers' Tales: Chris Bonington talks to Eric Wallace. 12.05 News. 12.08 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO ★ BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT.

ANGLIA

As Thames except: Starts 9.30 am Larry the Lamb. 9.45 Clegg's People. 10.10 Then Came Bronson. 11.05 Cartoon. 11.15-12.00 Tenpin Bowling. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Love Boat II (Hope Lange). Romantic comedy set aboard a luxury cruise ship. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.30-7.00 Survival. 12.05 am New Kind of Family. 12.35 Big Question.

GRAMPIAN

As Thames except: Starts 9.40 am First Thing. 9.45 It's A Musical World. 10.35 Target The Impossible. 11.00 Sesame Street. 11.50-12.00 Larry The Lamb. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Best Pair of Legs in the Business (Reg Varney, Diana Coupland). Tragedy of a fading drag artist. 5.15-5.45 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.30-7.00 Out of Town. 12.05 am Amazing Years of Cinema: Fighters. 12.30 News. 12.35 Closedown.

SOUTHERN

As Thames except: starts 9.30 Wild, Wild World of Animals. 9.55 Bailey's Bird. 10.20 Fangface. 10.45 Tarzan. 11.35-12.00 New Fred and Barney Show. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Film: Young Wives' Tale (Joan Greenwood). Two couples share a home with hilarious results. 3.45-4.15 Money-Go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.30-7.00 Diff'rent Strokes. 12.05 WKRP in Cincinnati. 12.35 Weather followed by Rome Comes to Canterbury.

CHANNEL

As Thames except: Starts 12.30-1.00 Doctor. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Appointment with Venus (David Niven). British comedy about a prize pedigree cow called Venus. 3.35 Cartoon. 3.45-4.15 Money-go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Here's Boomer. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.25 Chance to Meet . . . Richard Ogden. 6.35-7.00 Science Quiz. 12.05 That's Hollywood 12.30 Closedown.

ULSTER

As Thames except: Starts 12.00-12.10 pm Cockleshell Bay. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Dr Strangelove (Peter Sellers, George C Scott) Laughs galore with a crazed USAF general. 5.15-5.45 Joe 90. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 12.05 am Bedtime, Closedown.

ATV

As Thames except: Starts 9.40 am Stationary Ark. 10.05 Prairie Album. 10.20 Bailey's Bird. 10.45 Front Line Evangelists. 11.15-12.00 Scooby Goes Hollywood. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Anatomy of a Seduction (Susan Flannery). Divorcee has an affair with her best friend's son. 3.45-4.15 Money-Go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Joe 90. 6.00-7.00 ATV Today. 12.05 am News. 12.10 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As Thames except: Starts 9.30 Children of the Lotus. 9.55 Stars on Ice. 10.20 Fastest Man in the World on Water. 11.10-12.00 Bowls Spectacular. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Sunstruck (Harry Secombe). Jilted teacher feels himself to be a laughing stock. 3.45-4.15 Money-go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.40-7.00 Crimedesk. 12.05 Late Call. 12.10 Barney Miller. 12.35 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As Thames except: Starts 9.30 European Folk Tales. 9.40 World We Live In. 10.05 Herculoids. 10.30 Laurel and Hardy. † 11.00 Bygones. 11.25 Make Mine Music. 11.55-12.00 Wattoo Wattoo. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Great Wallendas (Lloyd Bridges, Britt Ekland). Story of one of America's most spectacular circus families. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00-7.00 Calendar. 12.05 Closedown.

WESTWARD

As Thames except: Starts 9.35 am Sesame Street. 10.35 Lost Islands. 11.00-12.00 Nova 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Appointment With Venus (David Niven, Glynis Johns) British comedy about a prize pedigree cow called Venus. 3.35 Cartoon. 3.45-4.15 Money-Go-Round. 5.15-5.45 Here's Boomer 6.00-7.00 Westward Diary. 12.05 am That's Hollywood. 12.30 Faith For Life. 12.36 Closedown.

HTV

As Thames except: starts 9.45 Sesame Street. 10.45 Bailey's Bird. 11.10-12.00 Christmas Carol (animated). 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Rhodes of Africa (Walter Huston, Oscar Homolka). Cecil Rhodes recognizes the potential of the fertile plains of Africa. 5.15-5.45 Flintstones 6.00-7.00 Report West. 12.05 Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV except: starts 12.00-12.10 Ffalabalam. 4.15 Flying Kiwi. 4.45-5.15 Ser. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.25-7.00 Report Wales. 8.00 The Spinners and Children. 8.30-9.00 Yr Wylhnos.

Entertainments Guide

ENTERTAINMENTS

Cl. Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office
When telephoning use prefix 01 only when outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 836 3161 cc 240 5258
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tomor 1st 7.30 PELLEAS AND MELISANDE Wed. Sat 7.00 DER ROSENKAVALIER Thurs 7.30 LA TRAVIATA. 104 balcony seats avail from 10am on day

COLLEGIATE THEATRE
See under Theatres

COVENT GARDEN 240 1066 'S' (Credit/charge cards 836 6903) 50 amphiseats avail for all perfs from 10am on the day of perf
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't & Tm at 7.00. Il trovatore Tomor at 7.30. Alceste Thurs at 7.00. Don Giovanni THE ROYAL BALLETWed at 7.30. Romeo and Juliet Sat 2.00 and 7.30. Concerts, Illuminations, Afternoon of a Faun, Napoli

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, EC1. 01-837 1672/1673/3856 Credit Cards 10am 10 6pm. 01-278 0871 (no sales 01-379 6061)
British premiere of Tina Musgrave's A CHRISTMAS CAROL A Victorian Christmas card comes to life Newsweek "From Wed 16 Sat Dec 24 Thur & Sat Mat 2.30. Tue 22 to Sat. Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. See under Theatres. AMPLE FREE PARKING after 6.30pm

THEATRES

ADELPHI cc 01-836 7611
D'OYLY CARTE
for 10 week Season
with 7 operas by
GILBERT and SULLIVAN
Dec 17, 18, 19 THE MIKADO. Dec 21 to 26 PINES PINAFORE. Evgs 7.30. Mats Wed, Sat 2.30. Credit card Hotline 01-836 0971.

ALBERY. OMEGA SHOW GUIDE: ALL MY SONS, CAN DO BUSINESS WITHOUT MONEY, CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD, DRACULA, EDUCATING RITA

ALBERY Matinees only 836 3878 (Credit Card Sales 379 6565) Fri 18 Sat 19 Dec 7.30 (Fri Eve Sold Out) Tickets £3-£10 Student Standby
DRACULA
OR A PAIN IN THE NECK
A fantastic Show with a little
Directed by Michael Bogdanov
Until Jan 26 Mon-Fri 8 Wed/Fri at 2.30 Sat 5 & 8 (Closed Xmas Day) To Apr 16 all seats £5.00.

ALDWYCH 836 6404 Credit Cards 379 6565 Group Sales 379 6061
TREVOR EVE ELIZABETH QUINN
ACTOR of the YEAR ACTRESS of the YEAR
CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD
PLAY OF THE YEAR
"Riveting piece of drama" Guardian
"Superb" Times
Special Christmas Perfs 24 & 26 Dec 3.0 & 7.30 Dec 28 7.30

ALDWYCH S 836 6404 CC 379 6565 (Lib. Sales 1064) Info 836 6808
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
RICHARD II
Ton't 7.30pm runs 3hrs 30mins
Next perfs THE MERCHANT OF VENICE To Dec RICHARD III 18 Dec. Private parties Group Sales 379 6061 Hotel Desk at The Swan Warehouse, Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS 836 1171. Eves 8pm, mat Tue 3pm & Sat 5pm. Tickets £5 £10 £15
ROSEMARY LEACH DAVID SWIFT
"If you love books, or words, or wit or life itself visit RJ CHARING CROSS ROAD without a moments delay" Jack Tinker Daily Mail.
RJ
CHARING CROSS ROAD
by Helene Hanff
"A triumphant evening for the happiness, a little sadness and a lot of good in it. Douglas Orgill, D. Ex.

APOLLO VICTORIA Opp Victoria Stn
THE SOUND OF MUSIC
PETULA CLARK
"A huge and manifest success" BBC. Evgs 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. Box Office 10am-8pm In person/phone/post SAE. SPECIAL HOT LINES 01-828 8665/6/7. Credit Card bookings 01-834 6919/2184. Teletext (Instant 24hr confirmed) Credit Card Bookings 01-200 0200. Group Sales 01-379 6061. Group bookings 01-839 3093. LONDON'S GREATEST VALUE GOOD SEATS NOW AVAILABLE FOR Mon-Thurs at 7.30 pm & Wed at 2.30. Fri & Sat performances SOLD OUT — Returns only. Booking to 15th May, 1988.

APOLLO Shaftesbury Ave. 836 2111 437 2663. Opening Dec 16th. For a limited season only.
KEITH MICHELL TWIGGY ELEANOR BRON JEREMY LLOYD in
"CAPTAIN BEAKY'S MUSICAL CHRISTMAS"
Perfs Daily 3.0 & 7.30pm
Prices £1.50 to £6.0

ARTS. 836 3334/2132. Evgs. 8.30pm. Steven Berkoff's DECADENCE. "Characteristically brilliant" Times. "Superb" Std. (Must end Dec 19.)

BUSH THEATRE 743 3388. Hull Truck (Bush premiere) STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS by Mike Bradwell. Tonight 8pm.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE 01-836 1488. Party Bookings 01-836 2379.
JON PERTWEE
GEOFFREY SAYLDON UNA STUBBS in
WORZEL GUMMIDGE
A New Musical Based on the Famous Television Series. Res. Price Prevs. Dec 14 & 15 £7.50. Mats 2.30. OPENS DEC. 22 at 7.00. Subs Dec 30 to 31 at 7.00. Mats at 2.30. CLOSED XMAS DAY.

CHURCHILL CC (Jeb 0677/5828) Bromley, Kent 2.30, 7.30.
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
By John Kane. Music by Ed Coleman.

COLLEGIATE THEATRE 01-387 9629. Garden St. W.C.1.
ALEC McCOWEN
LIBBY MORRIS
Bruce Barry & Ronnie Stevens in
Gilbert and Sullivan's
HMS PINAFORE
Singers Company
22 Dec-9 Jan.

COMEDY THEATRE S CC 930 2578 Credit sales 379 6061. Mon-Fri 8.0. Sat 8.15. Mat Thurs 3. Sat 5.15. Prices £3.50-£9.50 (not suitable for children).
STEAMING
By NELL DUNN
COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1984
GEORGINA HALE "A comic tour de force" Std. "Overwhelming warm-hearted-ness and dazzling performances" Gdn. "Funny and touching" D. Exp. Enjoy pre-show supper at Cafe Encore + tkt for only £8.50. Tel 930 1074

COTTESLOE (small auditorium) now prior (Ton't/Tomor 7.30 TRUE WEST by Sam Shepard. Ton't 6.00 FRANK MUIRheads from his WHAT-A-MESS stories. 45 min Platform Perf all this Sl 50

CRITERION S 930 3216 cc 379 6565 Grp. Bkgs. 836 3962. Mon to Thur 7.30 Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45. Nominated 3 SWET AWARDS
DARIO FO'S COMEDY
CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY!
by the author of "Accidental Death of an Anarchist"
"MAKES YOU GLAD TO BE ALIVE" D. Tel. "COLDON MILES BRIANT IN A TOUR DE FORCE" D. Mirror. "AUDIENCE ROARED WITH RECIPROCAL APPROVAL" S. Tms. "HILARIOUSLY WELL DIRECTED" GALES OF LAUGHTER" Times. "HILARIOUS BLACK FARCE, MAD PANTOMIME, VERY FUNNY" D. Ex.

DRURY LANE. Theatre Royal CC 836 8108 Opens Feb 4 Prevs Feb 1, 2 & 3
AN EVENING'S INTERCOURSE
with BARRY HUMPHRIES
For 10 weeks only Book Now.

DUCHESS. S & CC 836 8243. Eves. 8. Wed & Sat. 3.30 & 8.30.
Francis Matthews, George Howell and Lynette Davies in
BEST TELLER FOR YEARS...
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER
"AN UNABASHED WINNER" S. Exp. "SENSATIONAL" Times

DUKE OF YORK'S 836 5122. CC 836 9837. Grp Sales 379 6061. Eves 7.45. Half price mat. Today 3. Sat 3 & 8.15
SIMON CALLOW & PATRICK RYECART in
The Beastly Beatitudes of BALTHAZAR B
by J. P. DONLEAVY
"A REAL RARITY. A ROARING COMEDY STRONGLY AN APPRECIATION OF LIFE AND THE VARIETIES OF LOVE FROM THE COARSE TO THE SUBLIME." Times. Enjoy pre-show supper at Cafe Encore + tkt for only £7.50. 930 2720.

FORTUNE THEATRE 01-836 2238
Russell St. Covent Gdn.
Last week before New York Transfer
BROTHERS KARAMAZOV
"This production hits the jackpot" Times
"A brilliant Theatre Production" TOTAL TRIUMPH" Daily Mail
Mon-Thurs 8 pm. Fri & Sat 5.45 pm. Sat 5 & 8 pm.

GARRICK S CC 836 4601
MARTIN JARVIS JUDY GEESON
and PETER BLYTHE
"An excellent cast" D. Tel. In "highly entertaining comedy"
CAUGHT IN THE ACT
"Thick with laughs" N O W
Evgs at 8.00 Wed 3.00 Sats 4 & 8
Group Sales 01-379 6061

GLOBE S CC 437 1592. 379 6770/2772.
EVES 7.30 Mats Wed 2.30 Sats 4.00
THE MITFORD GIRLS
"A MARVELLOUS PARTY . . . I COULDN'T HAVE LOVED IT MORE" D. Mail. "THIS INSPIRED MUSICAL" New.

GREENWICH cc 01-858 7755. Evgs 7.45. Mat Sats 3.00. Last week
"ANOTHER COUNTRY A new play by Julian Mitchell. "A rare piece of playwriting . . . excellent production" Times. "It holds you throughout" Gdn. From Dec 16 THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301
Evgs 8.0 Sat 4.30
INCIDENT AT TULSE HILL
Robert Dast's subtle, intelligent play which is beautifully constructed. Harold Pinter directs with telling economy. D. Exp.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832.
Direct from Broadway. Return to London of
DAVE ALLEN
Eves. Mon.-Sat. 8.00. Due to unprecedented demand for tickets season extended, but must terminate Feb 6. Closed Dec 21 for one week. re-opens Dec 28.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606/7. CC 930 4025/6. Grp Sales 379 6061. Eves 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0.
FRANK FINLAY
IN THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S MULTI-AWARD WINNING INTERNATIONAL SMASH HIT
AMADEUS
by PETER SHAFFER
Directed by PETER HALL
"TREMENDOUS . . . PLAY GIGANTIC BOX OFFICE SUCCESS." Bernard Levin, Times.

KINGS HEAD. 226 1916 Tues-Sun Dnr 7 Shows 8. EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND Sheila Steafel in cabaret STEAFEL SOLO "Splendidly funny" Std

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373
MICHAEL CRAWFORD
in the Brand New Musical
BARNUM
"THE GREATEST SHOW IN LONDON" D. Mirror.
Eves. 7.30. Mats. Weds & Sats. Use the Palladium Tel lines 01-437 2055, 01-734 8051, for instant credit card reservations. MATINEE TODAY 2.45. SEATS AT DOORS.

LYRIC S cc 437 3686. Grp. Bkgs 01-379 6061 Eves 8 Mats Wed 3 Sats 4.15
RICHARD BRIERS PETER EGAN
Richard Pearson, Pat Heywood, Alice Krige
IN BERNARD SHAW'S "BUBBLING COMEDY" N.Std
ARMS AND THE MAN
"AMONG THE GREAT DELIGHTS OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING THEATRE" N Std. "SPARKLING NEW PRODUCTION" D. Tel. Alice Krige Most promising Newcomer SWET Awards 1987. Enjoy pre-show supper at the Cafe Royal + tkt for only £8.95 incl. 437 9090

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH S cc 01-741 2311 From Sat Eves 7.30 A NIGHT IN OLD PEKING The story of ALADDIN by Martin Duncan & David Utz. With Jasper Britton, Simon Cadell, Anita Dobson & Bob Cody.
LYRIC STUDIO. Eves 8pm
TRAFFORD TANZI Sold Out.
Ton't 10 pm THE ASCENT OF WILBERFORCE III

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage) Ton't 7.45 (low price prevs) Tomor 7.00 (low price opening) THE SECOND MRS TANQUERAY by Arthur W. Pinero.

MAYFAIR 01-629 3037. Book Now Dec 21 Daily 10.30am. 3.00 & 4.00.
SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW.

MAYFAIR THEATRE 629 3036 (nr Green Pk Tube). Evgs 8.00 Mat Sat 5.00. Nominated most promising newcomer in SWET Awards. JEREMY NICHOLAS in
THREE MEN IN A BOAT
by JEROME K. JEROME
"Hilarious . . . a original way to spend an evening. D. Mail.
Ends Jan 9, 1988

MERMAID TH. Blackfriars, EC4 Tel 01-236 5568 cc 01-236 6731, 01-236 5324. PARKING ADJACENT.
TOM BAKER in
TREASURE ISLAND
COMMENCING DECEMBER 15

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Shepherd of the Year forsakes his flock for a city's acclaim

From Tim Jones, Tywyn

The first winter snow lay thick on the sparse slopes of Happy Valley and across the bay Snowdon stood proud in its mantel of white. Walking with a limp across the terrain because he had that morning been kicked by a cow, Mr Simon Jones above, wore the polite look of a man containing his amusement.

He had just been asked by photographer Bill Warhurst to round up some of his flock. The sheep, hardy and agile Welsh mountain ewes, were scattered around the slope and seemed to have other ideas. Surely the exercise would take all day.

Two quick commands in Welsh sent sheepdoys Meg and Dovey racing around the perimeter of the slope and within two minutes Mr Jones was posing, crook in hand, with 220 ewes and one angry ram standing in a neat circle behind him. It was a dramatic example of the kind of skill which has won for Mr Jones the coveted title of Shepherd of the Year.

The life that Mr Jones (aged 27) leads is so different to that experienced by most of the working population that it is difficult for urban man to comprehend. As he strides the high mountain above Cardigan Bay, his only companions are his dogs and his only company the kestrels and buzzards hovering in the air ready to end the life of a vole or songbird.

It is a harsh, cruel domain which brings to the shepherd the kind of contentment few people ever achieve. Strikes, demarcation disputes, and management blunders are alien concepts to him as he practises the skills handed down for generations.

The solitude of his occupation makes him difficult to interview for his lonely life provides few opportunities for worktime conversation. His craft is part of his life and the effort of trying to describe what he actually does can lead to frustration. "How do I train my dogs? I don't whistle, I use commands."

The answer is infuriatingly inadequate for it belies the long hours of dedication which have turned the dogs into efficient extensions of their master's mind. Some people claim that only fear can make dogs like those work so well. But Meg and Dovey were clearly enjoying themselves as they raced to round up the sheep on the icy mountain slope.

With such a big enterprise to manage almost single handed, Simon Jones is a busy man at the best of times on the 900 acre farm, Ysguboriau, near Tywyn, Gwynedd.

From the end of February through to April, when most people are indoors he is out lambing the major part of his 1,452 ewe flock. After working with the sheep all day he backs this up with two-hourly inspections throughout the night, stealing the odd hour's sleep in a chair between his midwifery rounds.

Last year, 90 lambs arrived one night between seven pm and dawn and this coming spring will be even more hectic as he is expecting 200 to lamb in two days. With characteristic reserve, he said: "I'm a little pleased to see the middle of April come, when things start to slacken off a bit."

To the uninitiated one Welsh mountain ewe looks exactly like another, but Mr Jones actually knows by sight many of his flock. On the high mountain only the fit middle-aged ewes remain through winter, surviving on what they can scavenge from the sparse vegetation with block feeding from January onwards, when conditions get hard.

One characteristic of the ewes helps Mr Jones enormously for some territorial instinct prevents them from crossing the mountain to the next valley.

Today Mr Jones's life will be dramatically different for at lunchtime he is due to receive his award in the House of Commons from Lord Home of the Hirsel. While he was excited and honoured by the prospect, the thought of the journey to the metropolis clearly held more dread for him than searching for a lost sheep in the worst of the winter conditions.

The ceremony over, Mr Jones will waste no time in returning to Ysguboriau with his wife Lynda, who admits that at times she has to take second place to sheep.

If ever Mr Jones is short of guidance, he can turn the diaries of his forebears back to his great, great, great grandfather, starting in 1815, when sheep were worth eleven shillings. As he said before we left him on his mountain: "Sheep are in my blood."

The Shepherd of the Year award is organized by Livestock Farming and sponsored by Rumenco Limited.

Snow turns Britain into disaster area

Continued from page 1

unable to run direct services between London, Bristol and South Wales. British Rail gave a warning that the situation was likely to deteriorate and said services would be restricted today.

At sea one sailor drowned and 34 people were rescued from the Channel after jumping into mountainous seas from the 10,000 ton Ecuador-registered cargo ship, Bonita. She started listing at 45 degrees when about 20 miles south of Portland Bill.

A man, a woman and two children were taken to the Royal Naval Air Station sickbay at Portland. Another eight people were picked up by the Guernsey lifeboat to await transfer by Sea-King helicopter to Portland.

Another man was lost after a small fishing boat overturned as it tried to reach safety at Newhaven harbour, Sussex.

The boat, the 26-ft long Orlando from Cornwall was less than 100 yards from the harbour when the two-man crew were pitched into the turbulent sea.

Both Newhaven lifeboats were launched and quickly picked up one of the men. They continued the search, with a Royal Navy helicopter for the other man until darkness fell.

On the east Kent coast, sea lashed by force 10 winds caused extensive flooding on low lying areas. At Hythe and Sandgate, waves 40ft high swamped seafront cottages. Seawater several feet deep surrounded scores of homes and the main coast road between Folkestone and Hastings was closed in two places.

Fifty mentally and physically handicapped patients were evacuated from hospital at Hayling Island, Hampshire, as a sea-wall was in danger of collapsing. Heavy seas poured over the wall, flooding the area near the hospital and the patients, aged up to 70, were ferried to the mainland.

The patients, many in a distressed state, were given food and blankets at an emergency centre set up at a clinic in Havant, before being transferred to Coldeast Hospital.

Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, had its highest tide for nearly 60 years. Waves swept over the sea wall, flooding roads, gardens and the basements of houses. The same high tide battered the northern coast of the island and there was two to three feet of floodwater at Yarmouth.

All along the south coast many small boats were ripped from their moorings. Inland the rivers Avon and Stour burst their banks at Christchurch, Dorset, leaving some streets under one and a half feet of water. Council workmen put sandbags around homes threatened by the floods. Mudeford Quay nearby was flooded and with hundreds of acres of meadowland under water, livestock had to be moved to safety.

The fierce winds caused at least two deaths. A man was killed and a woman passenger seriously injured when a tree fell on top of a van on the main road between Carmarthen and Kidwelly in Dyfed and a 70-year-old woman motorist was killed in Dublin when a portable hut fell from a lorry onto her car.

Scotland had borne the brunt of the bad weather overnight. Yesterday snow blocked many roads in the north and east and the Aberdeen area was particularly badly affected.

The blizzard did not reach West Yorkshire until last night, when the area experienced its first heavy snowfall of the winter.

Today's prospects for air and rail travellers are bleak. Heathrow had one runway only open and Stansted, Gatwick and Manchester airports were closed last night. Thousands of passengers were waiting at the terminals because of a backlog of delayed flights from the past few days.

A British Airways spokesman said: "Maintenance staff have been trying to work in temperatures of minus 15 degrees centigrade. Equipment was frozen and tugs could not move the big jets because of ice".

Britain has recorded its lowest temperatures since records began 100 years ago. On Saturday, for the second night running, the coldest area was Shropshire. The Met Office at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, recorded minus 25 degrees centigrade, four degrees colder than on the previous night.

At the hamlet of Preston Brockhurst, nearby, however, Dr Derek Owen, a chemist, recorded a temperature of minus 29.8 degrees centigrade in the garden of his old manor house. He said: "My wife has always said we live in the coldest house in the world and I am beginning to think she is right."

At Shawbury itself, the village garage proprietor, Mr Graham Wilde, said: "We have been kept busy with people whose car radiators froze up as they were driving along."

Four policemen, meanwhile, are struggling through Arctic blizzards and temperatures of minus 30 degrees centigrade to get home for Christmas. The men, from Surrey police traffic department, have been on an expedition to North Cape in Norway, for charity.

They reached there on snow scooters on Friday and are now on the long journey home to warmer weather—only just.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Field Aviation at Heathrow, 2.30; as president of the Royal Society of Arts, presents awards for design management, Albert medal and the Benjamin Franklin medal at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, WC2, 6.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the International Round Table for the advancement of the counselling, international consultation on career guidance in higher education, Robinson College, Cambridge, 9.55.

Exhibitions

Artists' Christmas cards. Coffee Shop Gallery, 10-6, and paintings and prints by Stanley William Hayter, to celebrate his 80th birthday, 10-6, both at Tate Gallery.

Birmingham Polytechnic MA textile shows, 1981, at Kensington Exhibition Centre, Kensington High Street, 10-5.

Eric Kennington's famous paintings The Kensingtons at Laventie, Imperial War Museum, 10-5.50.

America at play, 1870-1955, exhibition of American toys, the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2, 10-6.

Talks, lectures

Christmas lecture for sixth form students, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, Lecture Hall, 3.

"The Gospel and the Inner City", by the Rev Robert Nind, St James's Church, Piccadilly, 1.

"Growing up in the East End", by Louis Heren, NF Forum, Ben Uri Art Gallery, Dean St, W1, 1.15.

"Bronze Age Britain", by David Williams, British Museum, 11.30.

Music, lunchtime

Piano recital by Michael Blackmore, St Lawrence Jewry, 1.

Organ recital by Jonathan Rennert, St Michael, Cornhill, 1.

BP Choir, St Anne's Music Society, Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, EC2, 1.10.

Music

A recital by György Pauk, famous violinist, at Putney Music, Dryburgh Hall, Putney swimming pool, Putney, SW15, 8.

Pupils from John Aird School for the Partially Sighted will be in the choir for the annual London schools' festival of Christmas music, Royal Festival Hall, 2.30.

Walks

Jack the Ripper murder mystery 1888, meet Aldgate East Underground (High St North), 7.30.

Tomorrow's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Burnbake Workshop, Southwark, 11.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, attends the Not Forgotten Association's Christmas party at the Royal Riding School, Buckingham Palace, 3.

Exhibitions

Ancient Chinese sculpture at Eskenazi, at Foxglove House, 166 Piccadilly, 10-6.

Guthrie and the Scottish Realists, the Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1, 9.30-5.30.

Paintings by Patrick Caulfield, Tate Gallery, 10-6.

An exhibition by three Polish artists, Air Gallery, 6-8 Rosebery Avenue, EC1, 11-6.

Talks, lectures

Christmas lectures for sixth form students, Lecture Hall, Natural History Museum, 3.

"How to be an artist", the William Townsend lecture, by Howard Hodgkin, Botany Theatre, University College of London, Gower Street, 5.30.

"Social Unrest in the Ruhr, 1918-21: The lessons for labour history", by Dr R Geary, German Historical Institute, 42 Russell Square, WC1, 5.

Music

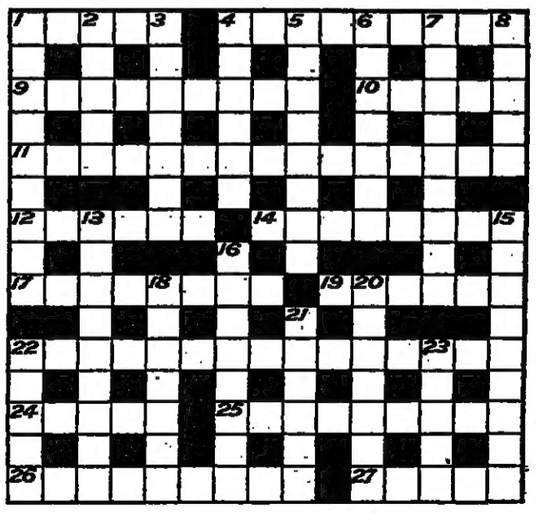
English Christmas music given by players and singers from the Early Music Centre in the setting of the Tudor Gallery, Museum of London, 12.30 and 1.15.

Walks

Quaint English alehouses—A barrel of fun walk, meet Green Park Underground, 7.30.

Greenwich walkabout daily, meet the Walkabout Guide, Greenwich Pier, 12.30 or 3.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,705



ACROSS

1 Quiet times for bookmakers (5).
4 Of high social rank — like Tennie!? (3-6).
9 Gets into trouble after theatre performance (9).
10 Silver and gold taken to a market place (5).
11 Too much drink for chief Muse? (3,4,3,5).
12 "Pretty-dimpled boys, like smiling —" (A & C) (6).
14 Signs after giving address (8).
17 Topers include many a fellow native (8).
19 Very big flag for a god (6).
22 Where the RAMC are getting into line with NATO - it's unusual (8-7).
24 Way East appears after defeat (5).
25 Fish joins four retired Republicans in a mock serenade (9).
26 Run your best, Veronical (9).
27 Live for many a spring (5).

DOWN

1 A funny nose? (9).
2 Saved capital, we hear, the silly things! (5).
3 Didn't eat the rest - VAD recooked it (7).
4 French historian rows round holyhead (6).
5 Drink one spilled from cask (8).
6 Concerned with spy found in laboratory perhaps (7).
7 Word "negro" improperly used by offender (5-4).
8 Cook gets a point in hill-climb (5).
13 Course of action for church with rude members (9).
15 Necessary letters written on foreign milk rise (9).
16 Man adherent confused Abel about Navy Bill (8).
18 Hang upsetting the country — buy! (7).
20 Turn to observe foul, say? (3-4).
21 Mistake to raise sterling in republic (6).
22 Game to take the violin up (5).
23 Angry buccaneer lost head (5).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 15,704 will appear next Saturday

هكذا من الأصل

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.78	1.63
Austria Sch	31.45	29.35
Belgium Fr	86.00	82.00
Canada $	2.31	2.22
Denmark Kr	14.38	13.68
Finland Mkk	8.60	8.15
France Fr	11.25	10.65
Germany DM	4.44	4.20
Greece Dr	123.00	115.00
Hongkong $	11.00	10.40
Ireland Pt	1.23	1.18
Italy Lir	2340.00	2240.00
Japan Yn	438.00	412.00
Netherlands Gld	4.85	4.61
Norway Kr	11.40	10.80
Portugal Esc	127.00	120.00
South Africa Rd	1.87	1.71
Spain Pta	190.50	181.50
Sweden Kr	10.92	10.36
Switzerland Fr	3.65	3.43
USA $	1.94	1.87
Yugoslavia Dnr	93.00	87.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied on Friday by Barclays Bank International. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index fell 5.3 to 520.2 on Friday evening.

New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 5.61 at 886.42.

Nature notes

Large, chattering flocks of fieldfares are common now out on snowy fields or in hawthorn hedges. The redwings that are often found with them are quieter, and less easily alarmed. Our resident thrushes, the song-thrush and the missel-thrush, do not mix much with these winter visitors. But both the redwing and the fieldfare have established themselves over the last decade as regular breeders, in small numbers, in Britain. In the woods, treecreepers and goldcrests travel about with the tit flocks. The treecreepers work their way steadily up a tree-trunk, then flit down to the base of another tree as the flock moves on, while the goldcrests stay well up among the branches.

Young spruces are cut for Christmas trees; on the older spruces, the seeds ripen slowly, usually taking a year from flowering to the opening of the long, elegant cones. On Scots pines, the cones do not normally drop their seeds till they are two years old. These pine cones are much ravaged by squirrels and woodpeckers, and in Scotland and Norfolk by the crossbills, who wrench them off the branches and hold them in their claws, while extracting the seeds with their tongues.

DJM

Auctions today

Christie's, King Street: English porcelain, pottery and wedgwood, 10.30. Christie's, South Kensington: old and modern silver, 2; Oriental ceramics, 2; English and Continental prints, 2. Phillips, Blenheim Street: furniture, carpets, objects, 11; nineteenth and twentieth century oil paintings, 2; prints, 2. Sotheby's, Bond Street: miniatures, 11; antiquities, 11 and 2.30; printed books, 11.

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The papers

What has happened in Poland was inevitable, the Daily Mirror comments today: communism and freedom are alternatives, not allies. So General Jaruzelski, the man known as a moderate, has done all the familiar immoderate things. A state of emergency, martial law, midnight arrests, telephone lines cut, airports and borders closed, troops on the streets and a curfew.

"It is impossible to guess the end of the crisis. The Soviets don't want to intervene if they can help it: why keep a jackal and howl yourself? But if they do, the chill that will settle over Europe will be colder than the Polish winter."

La Stampa of Turin recalls that, next door to the Polish events, talks between the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, and the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, have been going on which, despite a formal atmosphere of cordiality, have left the two divided on almost all issues.

Sunday papers

The miners, deciding whether to strike, are warned by the Sunday Telegraph to remember not only their success in 1974 but also their failure in 1926. "The miners still carry immense clout. But not such strength this time as to guarantee certain victory."

The Observer writes that Mr Michael Foot has manifestly failed to do the job he was brought in as leader of the Labour Party to do, that is, heal its wounds and reconcile internal conflicts.

The Sunday Times believes the controversial ruling against Lourho's bid for the House of Fraser highlights the inadequacy of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for dealing with some of the cases referred to it.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on private member's motion on job opportunities in Wales. Civil Aviation Bill and Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Constitutional Referendum Bill, second reading. Debate on water pollution by cadium discharges.

Big bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000 winner: 2FK 804713 (the winner comes from Ealing, London). £50,000 winner: 1STZ 180014 (Essex). £25,000 winner: 2RB 125786 (Cambridge).

Today's anniversaries

George Washington died Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1799. Albert Prince Consort died Windsor Castle, 1861. Roald Amundsen arrived South Pole, 1911.

Christmas presents

The British Airports Authority is urging passengers flying away for Christmas not to wrap their presents beforehand. Delays are occurring at security checks because parcels have to be unwrapped.

Weather

A low will move away from S England as a further low approaches W Scotland.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers of rain or sleet, sunny intervals, some thunder; wind W, strong to gale; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

East Anglia, Midlands: Occasional rain, sleet or snow, some bright intervals; wind NW, fresh; max temp 2 to 4C (3 to 39F).

E, NW, NE, central N England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Sleet or snow showers, some longer outbreaks, few bright intervals; wind variable, becoming W, moderate to fresh; max temp 1 to 3C (34 to 37F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Outbreaks of snow, few bright intervals; wind S or variable, moderate; max temp 0 to 2C (32 to 36F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Snow showers, bright intervals; wind SE to E, fresh; max temp 0 to 2C (32 to 36F).

Outlook for the next few days: Staying cold with wintry showers.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind W, strong to severe gale; sea rough or very rough. Irish Sea: Wind W, moderate, becoming strong to gale; sea slight, becoming rough or very rough.

Sun rises: 7.59 am. Sun sets: 3.52 pm. Moon sets: 10.48 am. Moon rises: 7.38 pm.

Last quarter: December 18.

Lighting up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.30 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 8.08 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 7.49 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.45 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; r, rain; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	sl	2	36	Guernsey	sn	1	34
Birmingham	c	0	32	Inverness	c	1	34
Blackpool	c	0	32	Jersey	sn	0	32
Bristol	c	3	37	London	c	1	34
Cardiff	sn	1	34	Manchester	c	1	34
Edinburgh	c	-1	30	Newcastle	c	-3	27
Glasgow	c	0	32	Ronaldsway	r	4	39

London

SATURDAY

Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 1C (34F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, -3C (27F). Humidity: 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,008 millibars, rising.

YESTERDAY

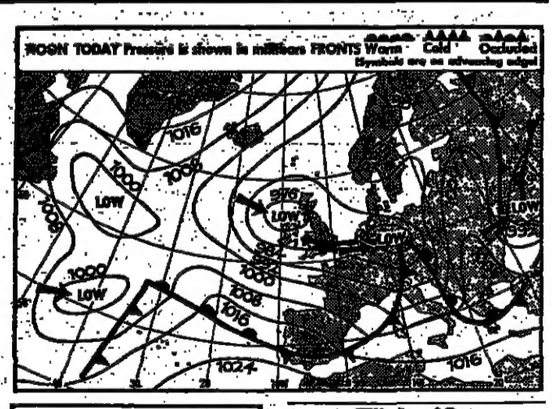
Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 2C (36F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, -5C (23F). Humidity: 6 pm, 100 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.08in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 981.5 millibars, falling.

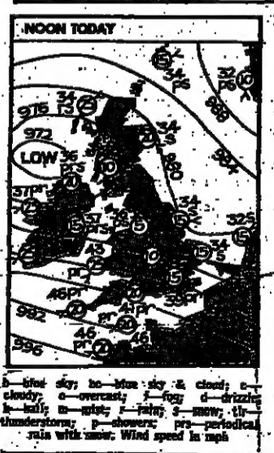
Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

LONDON: Cosmos 1510R: (Dec 15) 5.18-5.20; NE*; 35NE; ENE and 6.53-6.59; WNW*; 60NNE; E. Cosmos 185R: (Dec 15) 3.49-3.51; NE*; 25NE; NE and 5.27-5.31; NNW*; 40NNW; NE. Cosmos 880R: 17.20-17.26; NW; 55SW; SSE. Dynamics Explorer: 17.46-17.51; NNW; 30NNW; SW. Intercosmos 14R: (Dec 15) 5.20-5.25; NNE; 15NE; ENE and 6.57-7.6; NNW; 60ENE; SE. Seasat: 19.0-19.1; N*; 15N; N. Salyut 6: (Dec 15) 6.7-6.10; S; 15SSE; ESE.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1510R: (Dec 15) 5.18-5.20; ENE*; 35ENE; ENE and 6.53-6.59; WNW*; 65NW; ESE. Cosmos 185R: (Dec 15) 3.49-3.51; ENE*; 25ENE; NE and 5.27-5.31; NNW*; 55NNW; NE and 7.5-7.12; WNW*; 30NNW; NE. Cosmos 880R: 17.19-17.26; NW; 55WSW; SSE. Dynamics Explorer: 17.46-17.51; NNW; 40W; SSW. Intercosmos 14R: (Dec 15) 5.19-5.24; N; 15NE; ENE and 6.56-7.5; NNW; 60NE; SE.





b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.31	7.3	3.53	7.6
Avonmouth	9.04	13.5	9.34	13.2
Cardiff	9.48	12.5	9.17	12.2
Devonport	7.54	5.7	8.23	5.3
Dover	12.34	6.8	12.52	6.7
Falmouth	7.24	5.5	7.53	5.1
Harwich	1.19	4.0	1.49	4.2
Ilfracombe	7.45	9.6	8.15	9.2
Leith	4.15	5.9	4.45	5.7
Margate	1.38	4.9	2.04	5.0
Milford Haven	8.02	7.3	8.27	7.0
Newquay	6.53	7.3	7.18	7.0
Oban	7.20	4.1	8.01	3.8
Penzance	6.55	5.8	7.27	5.4
Portland	8.43	2.5	9.24	2.2
Portsmouth	1.04	4.8	1.17	4.8
Shoreham	12.48	6.4	1.04	6.4
Southampton	12.25	4.7	12.41	4.6
Swansea	8.08	9.8	8.36	9.4
Wltn-on-the-Nze	1.16	4.5	1.38	4.5

Tide measurement in metres: 1m = 3.2808ft.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Penzance, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Leeming, -1C (30F). Highest rainfall: Penzance, 1.99in. Highest sunshine: Clacton-on-Sea, 0.1hr.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	—	—	2	36	Dull
Bridlington	—	—	3	37	Cloudy
Cromer	—	—	1	34	Cloudy
Lowestoft	—	—	3	37	Cloudy
Clacton	0.1	—	3	37	Gale
Margate	—	—	2	36	Cloudy
Folkestone	—	.01	2	36	Snow
Hastings	—	.06	4	39	Sleet
Eastbourne	—	.13	5	41	Snow
Worthing	—	.13	5	41	Sleet
Littlehampton	—	.27	4	39	Sleet
Bognor Regis	—	.36	5	41	Snow
Southsea	—	.39	5	41	Snow
Shanklin	—	.22	5	41	Snow
Bournemouth	—	.67	5	41	Sleet
Poole	—	.70	5	41	Snow
Swanage	—	.48	5	41	Snow
Weymouth	—	.54	5	41	Snow
Ilfracombe	—	.47	4	39	Snow
Tenby	—	1.13	8	46	Snow
Anglesey	—	.67	6	43	Snow
Colwyn Bay	—	.13	2	36	Snow
Southport	—	.02	0	32	Snow
Morecambe	—	.02	3	37	Snow
Douglas	—	.31	4	39	Snow
Exmouth	—	.86	8	46	Snow
Teignmouth	—	1.00	8	46	Snow
Torquay	—	1.09	6	43	Sleet
Falmouth	—	1.10	9	48	Sleet
Penzance	—	1.99	12	54	Sleet
Jersey	—	.53	5	41	Snow
Guernsey	—	.64	11	52	Sleet
Isles of Scilly	—	1.10	11	52	Sleet
Khinlos	—	.15	2	36	Cloudy
Dyce	—	—	3	37	Fog
Leuchars	—	—	3	37	Cloudy

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	14	57	Cologne	s	-3	27	Madrid	c	16	61	Rome	s	13	55
Akrotiri	s	19	66	Copenhagen	sn	-1	30	Majorca	f	20	68	Salzburg	s	-4	25
Alexandria	—	—	—	Corfu	r	7	45	Malaga	f	21	70	Sao Paulo	—	—	—
Algiers	f	23	73	Dallas	—	—	—	Malta	f	19	66	S Francisco	r	12	54
Amsterdam	s	-1	30	Dublin	sl	2	36	Melbourne	c	18	64	Seoul	s	1	34
Athens	c	18	64	Dubrovnik	r	13	55	Mexico City	—	—	—	Singapore	—	—	—
Bahrain	s	23	73	Faro	c	18	64	Miami	—	—	—	Stockholm	s	-13	9
Barbados	—	—	—	Florence	f	7	45	Milan	s	8	46	Strasbourg	s	-1	30
Barcelona	c	13	55	Frankfurt	f	-4	25	Montreal	sn	-4	25	Sydney	c	19	66
Beirut	c	-2	28	Funchal	—	—	—	Moscow	—	—	—	Tangier	c	18	64
Belgrade	sn	-1	30	Geneva	s	0	32	Munich	s	-3	27	Tehran	—	—	—
Berlin	sn	-5	23	Gibraltar	f	18	64	Nairobi	f	26	79	Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Bermuda	—	—	—	Helsinki	c	-9	16	Naples	f	16	61	Tenerife	s	20	68
Biarritz	r	15	59	Hongkong	f	21	70	New York	f	16	61	Tokyo	s	10	50
Boulogne	c	-2	28	Innsbruck	c	1	34	Nice	f	13	55	Toronto	c	-1	30
Bordeaux	r	3	37	Istanbul	c	15	59	Oslo	f	-16	3	Tunis	c	20	68
Boston	s	1	34	Jeddah	f	31	88	Ottawa	—	—	—	Valencia	c	21	70
Brussels	s	-1	30	Johannesb'g	c	27	81	Paris	c	-1	30	Vancouver	c	1	34
Budapest	c	-1	30	Las Palmas	c	21	70	Prague	s	-4	25	Venice	s	6	43
Cairo	s	20	68	Lisbon	—	—	—	Reykjavik	s	-10	14	Vienna	c	-2	28
Cape Town	s	24	75	Locarno	s	5	41	Rhodes	f	20	68	Warsaw	s	-4	25
Casablanca	s	20	68	Los Angeles	f	16	61	Riyadh	s	22	77	Washington	s	6	43
Chicago	c	2	36	Luxembourg	c	-6	21	R de Janeiro	f	25	77	Zurich	s	-2	28